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**SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

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| I. CHINA DAILY REPORT | Contents unchanged |
| II. EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT | Contents unchanged |
| III. SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT | Contents unchanged |
| IV. EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT | Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged |
| V. NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA
DAILY REPORT | Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA
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Middle East & South Asia Review
Inter-Arab Affairs
Islamic Affairs
Palestinian Affairs
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South Asia
Afghanistan
Bangladesh
India
Iran
Maldives
Nepal & Bhutan
Pakistan
Sri Lanka |
| VI. LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT | Contents unchanged |

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COMMENTARY REJECTS U.S. SENATE RESOLUTION

SK160325 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2152 GMT 15 May 87

[NODONG SINMUN 16 May commentary: "A Provocative Resolution"]

[Text] The reactionary U.S. ruling circles are currently stepping up reactionary propaganda against our republic. According to a foreign press report, the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 14 May passed a so-called resolution concerning us, telling a lie that we are assisting international terrorism. The resolution also made an absurd outburst that we should accept the proposal of the South Korean authorities for North-South dialogue and that we should not obstruct the 1988 Olympic games. The South Korean puppets are also playing into U.S. hands, frenziedly slandering us. This is a truly dumbfounding, absurd outburst and a violent statement full of malice. This is a deliberate and international stratagem aimed at hurting the prestige of our republic, a wicked and treacherous attempt to shift onto someone else the blame for their crime of aggravating tension on the Korean peninsula, and a vicious act of provocation aimed at hiding the preparations for aggressive war in South Korea.

That we are assisting international terrorism is a vicious and cunning rumor invented and spread by the U.S. imperialists, and it is an intolerable defilement of us. We, who implement the most just, fair, and peace-loving foreign policy, have nothing to do with international terrorism. We thoroughly hate and reject international terrorism.

Attempting to absurdly associate us with international terrorism, the United States is trying to hide their savage-looking features of the ringleader and chieftan of international terrorism. It is the U.S. imperialists that supply money and arms for the antirevolutionary rascals who are engaging in banditry in many parts of the world, such as Nicaragua, Angola, and Mozambique, driving them toward acts of crime against the sovereign state, such as armed rebellion, destruction, subversion, murder, and arson, gathering the human refuse and gangsters forsaken by the people and keeping them under their protection and making them commit terrorism in the international arena, and imposing a bloody dark rule by instigating such fascist rascals as racists and Zionists.

It is the U.S. imperialists that continuously commit violent interference in and armed attacks against other countries, as shown in the savage bombardment against Libya, and impose bloodshed and all forms of misfortune on people throughout the world.

How brazen-faced the U.S. imperialists are as they remain dumb about such vicious acts they have committed and place absurd blame on someone!

By associating us with international terrorism, the United States aims at protecting traitor Chon Tu-hwan, the most vicious and devilish warmonger and fascist maniac, who savagely suppresses and murders the people by means of vicious military fascist terrorist rule and who even made a murderous expedition against the people of another country as a cat's paw for the master, thereby sustaining their colonial rule in South Korea.

As for the issue of North-South dialogue raved about in the resolution, it is a well-known fact that it is the South Korean puppets and their master the U.S. imperialists who are blocking it. While stubbornly opposing the high-level political and military talks, which is designed to ease tension on the Korean peninsula, they are attempting to use dialogue for their splittist policy and as an instrument for war.

The splittists are only interested, under the signboard of North-South dialogue, in pushing ahead with the farce of so-called cross-recognition, fabricating two Koreas, and intensifying the confrontation policy and accelerating arms buildup and war preparations behind the scenes of dialogue. These maneuvers will only aggravate the situation on the Korean peninsula. What in the world is the use of dialogue that runs counter to easing tension?

Instead of making the presumptuous and brazen-faced demand that someone accept something, the United States ought to refrain from instigating its servants toward division, confrontation, and war, and to take practical steps at an early date to ease tension and to bring about a just solution to the Korean question.

It is ridiculous that they should say that we are planning to obstruct the Olympic games. This is the sophistry of those who are attempting to use the Olympics for division, war, and the South Korean puppets' long-term power. The practical source of threat to the Olympic games is the overheated war frenzy in South Korea, the power crisis which has reached the worst stage as a result of the harsh colonial military fascist rule, and AIDS, the modern version of the plague rapidly spreading in South Korea. The United States ought to remove these in the first place.

We have made the fair proposal for cohosting the Olympic games by the North and South in order to save the Olympic movement from crisis and to create an advantageous situation for the peaceful reunification of Korea, and are making efforts to realize it. However, the United States and the South Korean authorities are engaged in cunning tactics to abolish the cohosting proposal in order to host the Olympics unilaterally by all means.

It is the United States and the South Korean puppets that are maneuvering in every way to obstruct the sound hosting of the Olympic games. They will be held responsible for the consequences therefrom.

The resolution of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee is the product of the U.S. imperialists' Korean strategy aimed at continuously holding South Korea as a base for nuclear war, and it reveals even more thoroughly the vicious nature of the U.S. imperialists as the aggressor and meddler against the Korean people.

No one in the world will believe the anti-republic stratagem of the reactionary U.S. ruling circles.

JOINT STATEMENT ON U.S.-ROK MILITARY CONFERENCE

SK160352 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 15 May 87

[Joint statement issued by the DPRK delegations to the North-South Red Cross talks, economic talks, and the preliminary contact for parliamentary talks on 15 May in Pyongyang]

[Text] The criminal maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean ruling bunch to desperately hinder North-South dialogue by clinging to the line of confrontation and war have reached their zenith. Holding a war conference in Washington, the U.S. imperialists and the bosses of the South Korean military recently decided to take a series of adventurous military measures, including measures for massing aggressive armed forces in South Korea on a full-fledged scale under the pretext of safely holding the Olympics and for strengthening the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, intensively reflecting their stand opposing dialogue and peace.

Regarding the Washington military conference as an act of rupturing dialogue -- the act of flatly negating North-South dialogue on the Korean peninsula -- and as the criminal act of intensifying confrontation and the danger of war, the delegation of the DPRK Red Cross, the delegation of the North side to North-South economic talks, and the delegation of the preliminary contact for North-South parliamentary talks bitterly denounce it.

In order to open the broad road of peace and the peaceful reunification of the country on the Korean peninsula today through dialogue and negotiations, we should alleviate tension and provide an atmosphere of dialogue first. Under circumstances in which the state of political confrontation has become acute as we see today and in which the state of military tension has been intensified to the extent that a war might be touched off by an accidental incident, we cannot smoothly resolve even the humanitarian question of lessening the suffering of those fellow countrymen who have been separated in the North and South.

Despite our patient efforts, the multilateral dialogue between the North and South, which had a good start following our delivery of relief goods in the fall of 1984, ultimately have not resumed after they were suspended. This has been caused by the fact that the United States and the South Korean authorities have intensified the state of political and military confrontation between the North and South by staging the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise. Because of this, our side has exerted every possible sincere effort to eliminate the state of political and military confrontation between the North and South and to provide an atmosphere of dialogue.

After advancing a proposal for holding high-level North-South political and military talks, our side has repeatedly advanced new, flexible proposals of concession and magnanimity by considering the South side's proposal with a magnanimous stand, thus exerting efforts in various ways to continue dialogue. If the South Korean authorities had dealt with our sincere efforts even with the slightest goodwill, peace talks would have been held in our country to achieve detente; multilateral talks, which were suspended, would have been resumed simultaneously; and the strained situation on the Korean peninsula would have greeted the new phase of detente. However, by coming up with an unjust excuse, which can convince no one, the South Korean side obstinately opposed all of our rational proposals. It finally rejected the prime ministerial talks, which it had proposed, thus completely blocking the future path of dialogue.

Having destroyed the chance of dialogue, which was put on schedule after a long interval, the United States and the South Korean puppets have begun to brazenly seek military confrontation against us by declaring that they will further strengthen the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise. This is a criminal act of putting a heavier roadblock across the road of North-South dialogue.

The military conference recently held in Washington clearly shows that under the instigation of the United States, the South Korean ruling bunch has in fact deliberately and willfully opposed our proposal for holding political and military talks.

Detente and dialogue clamorously babbled about by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities are a fraudulent fiction designed to conceal their bellicose and treacherous nature. The United States and the South Korean authorities, who seek confrontation and war, will only be denounced and criticized worldwide.

The delegations of the North side to North-South talks strongly demand that the United States and the South Korean authorities take full responsibility for much more gravely laying obstacles on the future path of dialogue designed to achieve detente and peace on the Korean peninsula, for heightening tension, and for endangering peace. The United States and the South Korean authorities should unconditionally stop the antidialogue maneuvers of massing aggressive armed forces in South Korea and creating the danger of war, should withdraw all aggressive armed forces, including nuclear weapons, from South Korea, and should immediately stop confrontation and war rackets.

[Dated] 15 May 1987, Pyongyang

KCNA ANALYST DENOUNCES PENDLEY'S 'THREAT' REMARKS

SK161033 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 16 May 87

["Open Challenge Reversing White and Black by KCNA News Analyst" -- KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 16 (KCNA) -- Pendley, U.S. Navy commander in South Korea, addressing a group of U.S. navymen on the reserve list in Tokyo recently, broke out in provocative invectives, alleging that "There is no change in the North's wild design to communise the South," "the North's aggressive threat to Seoul is real," and the like, according to a report.

He made no bones of ridiculously overstating our military force utterly in disregard of facts, crying that the North actually "possesses sufficient military capability" to do so.

This is another nonsense vilifying us and an open challenge to us.

Truth can never be concealed with a lie.

Not only once have we stated that we have no intention to invade the South, as everyone knows.

We have already shown this peaceful stand by deeds. We have made every possible effort to ease the tensions on the Korean peninsula and solve the Korean question in a peaceful way.

It is none other than the U.S. imperialist aggressors entrenched in South Korea who are actually bringing the dark clouds of war on the Korean peninsula. The U.S. imperialists are occupying other country across an ocean and committing acts of aggression with it as the bridgehead. To attain their aggressive objective, they are massively building up aggression forces involving nuclear weapons in South Korea and running about like a headless chicken in their bid to start another war against us.

Accordingly, there is a threat from the South, not "threat from the North," on the Korean peninsula today.

Facts are clear enough. But the U.S. imperialist bellicose elements are still lifting shrill cries over "threat from the North." This is a crafty ruse to ship more aggression forces into South Korea under this pretext and threaten the South Korean people and bridge over the crisis of the bankrupt colonial rule while stepping up war preparations against our people and, furthermore, realizing their aggressive Asian strategy.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors must get away at once with all their death tools, instead of committing criminal acts of aggression against us, largely reinforcing their aggression forces in South Korea under the pretext of "threat from the North."

DOLGIKH SPEAKS AT 14 MAY SARIWON RALLY

SK160710 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 13 May 87

[Excerpts] A mass rally of Sariwon City was held on 14 May at the North Hwanghae Provincial Cultural Hall to welcome a delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, which is on a visit to our country.

Placed with due respect on the front wall of the meeting site were portraits of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people, and Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. [passage omitted]

Invited to the meeting were the members of the delegation headed by USSR Supreme Soviet Deputy Vladimir Dolgikh, alternate member of the Political Bureau, and secretary, of the CPSU Central Committee, and Nikolay Shubnikov, Soviet Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Korea.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Chong Chun-ki, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice premier of the State Administration Council; Son Song-pil, vice chairman of the SPA Standing Committee; Kim Yong-chong, chairman of the North Hwanghae provincial Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee; Yi In-kyu, vice minister of foreign affairs; officials concerned, and working people from the city. [passage omitted]

Chairman Kim Yong-chong spoke at the meeting. [passage omitted]

Vladimir Dolgikh, head of the Soviet delegation, spoke next. He first conveyed the greetings to the working people in the DPRK from the CPSU, the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the fraternal Soviet people.

After mentioning the fact that from the day the delegation arrive in Korea, it has been accorded warm welcome and hospitality by the Korean people, he said: During our stay, we have come to realize once again that the DPRK people value the traditions of the Soviet-Korean friendship and unity wherever we have gone in Korea.

He said that the unity and cohesion between the CPSU and the WPK, forged in the course of a struggle for peace and socialism, constitute the reliable foundations of the Soviet-Korean friendship, which is developing in various fields.

He noted: The meeting in October last year between Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the WPK Central Committee and president of the DPRK, marked an important milestone in bringing cooperation between our two countries to a high level, opened new possibilities of strengthening relations between our two countries, and has promoted the strengthening of cooperation between the two fraternal parties.

Noting that the treaty of friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance between the USSR and the DPRK is very significant, he said: This treaty has served as a firm legal foundation for treaties designed to further develop and consolidate the friendly relations between our two fraternal countries for over the past 25 years. This treaty has credibly served the consolidation of peace and stability in the Far East.

The peoples in the two countries of the Soviet Union and Korea are struggling together for their common goals and ideals that serve peace and socialism.

Members of our delegation have been greatly moved at the vast extent of socialist construction being carried out in the DPRK, the Korean people's devotion, and their revolutionary initiatives. We are pleased with the great successes attained in the course of implementing the decisions adopted by the Sixth WPK Congress.

This year the working people of your country have confidently set about the fulfillment of the tasks of the Third 7-Year Plan and have vigorously turned out to carry through the tasks set forth by Comrade Kim Il-song in his policy speech at the SPA of the DPRK last December.

The Soviet people wholeheartedly wish that the working classes, peasants, and intellectuals in the DPRK will attain new successes in their struggle to achieve national prosperity and wealth, to improve the standard of living of every resident, to guarantee the security for their socialist Korea, and to consolidate their international position through their devoted labor.

He then noted the fact that during its sojourn in the DPRK the delegation has extensively exchanged views on problems concerning the bilateral relations between the two countries and on some pressing international issues.

Noting the fact that the Soviet people are now engaged in a vigorous struggle to implement the tasks assigned by the 27th party congress at a time when the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution is approaching, he commented on various changes taking place in various fields, including economics, politics, and life.

Noting the fact that the activities of the deputies to the people's soviets are becoming conspicuously positive in today's Soviet Union and that their roles are growing stronger in the settlement of economic and social problems, he said that all these aim at more sufficiently displaying the creative potential inherent in socialism.

After saying that over the whole course of their history, the CPSU and the Soviet state have struggled to achieve the cause of peace, freedom, and of the people's independence, he continued: Strengthening and development of socialism is most closely linked to the fate of peace and international security, prevention of thermonuclear war, and the survival of mankind.

The CPSU takes a firm stand that there must be a new political way of thinking in international affairs, while attaching priority significance to establishing such a way of thinking. The Soviet Union resolutely calls for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons till the early part of the 21st century. We have consistently exerted efforts so as to make all peoples and nations on earth lead a noble and sound existence under peace and conditions for varied cooperation. Proposals put forward by the Soviet Union for signing an agreement on abolishing the Soviet and U.S. medium-range and tactical missiles deployed in Europe at the earliest date possible proceed from our intentions to save the earth from weapons of mass destruction.

Firmly establishing lasting peace and cooperation in such a vast and highly-populated area as Asia and the Pacific will contribute to founding a comprehensive international security system. The Soviet Union is exerting every possible effort to contribute to promoting the process of reconciliation in this region. He then mentioned the fact that Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev had advanced his ideas about handling the issue of guaranteeing security in Asia as a package.

Stressing that he highly estimated the DPRK's proposal to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free peace zone, he said that realizing this proposal will greatly improve the situation on the Korean peninsula and will also greatly contribute to the cause of security in Asia.

He continued: The Soviet Union positively supports the DPRK in its effort to have the U.S. forces withdraw from South Korea and reunify the country on a peaceful, democratic basis without outside interference.

He stressed that the Soviet Union, while carrying out its Leninist foreign policy, will maintain close cooperation with the DPRK in the struggle to achieve victory for peace in a world free from weapons and war.

Concluding his speech, he wished the Korean people new successes in their struggle for socialist construction.

He then shouted following slogans: Long live the indomitable friendship between the CPSU and the WPK; between the USSR and the DPRK; and the Soviet people and the Korean people! Long live world peace!

The meeting ended with the chorus singing the "Internationale."

SOVIET NAVAL DELEGATION CONTINUES DPRK VISIT

Meeting for Delegation

SK160455 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Pyongyang May 16 (KCNA) -- A meeting of soldiers of the naval command of the Korean People's Army was held on May 15 in welcome of the Soviet Navy delegation headed by Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, vice-minister of defence and commander-in-chief of the Navy of the Soviet Union.

Senior Vice Admiral of the Korean People's Army Kim Il-chol spoke at the meeting. He said that the visit of the Soviet Navy delegation to Korea marked an important occasion in deepening and developing on to a higher stage the militant friendship and cooperation between the Navies of Korea and the Soviet Union which have entered a new stage of development since the historical visits of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to the Soviet Union in 1984 and 1986.

The friendship and unity between the Korean and Soviet peoples will be everlasting in any trial and in any storm and stress, Kim Il-chol stressed.

He wished the fraternal Soviet people and the officers and men of the Soviet Army new victories advance in their future struggle to implement the decisions of the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to complete socialism in an allround way and increase the military capabilities of the country.

He expressed positive support to the peace proposals and initiatives advanced by the Soviet party, government and people in recent years to defend peace and security in Europe and the world and firm solidarity with the Soviet people in the struggle for their realisation.

In his speech head of the delegation Vladimir Chernavin said: The joint struggle waged against the Japanese occupiers in the period of the Second World War made the peoples, armies and fleets of our two countries class comrades-in-arms and brothers. Shoulder to shoulder with you, we are defending a new society and safeguarding the peace cause and freedom of the peoples.

We Soviet people highly estimate the successes registered by the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in socialist construction and fully support your valiant and just struggle for the peaceful reunification of the country.

He said that it was very important for the armies and fleets of the two countries to further strengthen their militant friendship and remain faithful to the treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between the Soviet Union and Korea.

Pointing out that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song received the Soviet Navy delegation, the head of the delegation said that his words given on the occasion would serve as a guiding compass in further developing and strengthening the fraternal relations of friendship and cooperation between us.

A banner of the Navy of the Korean People's Army and a silk banner in the name of the Soviet Navy delegation were exchanged at the meeting.

Delegation Departs

SK161027 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Pyongyang May 16 (KCNA) -- The Soviet Navy delegation headed by Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, vice-minister of defence and commander-in-chief of the Navy, left for home today after concluding its visit to Korea.

It was seen off at the airport by Colonel General Pak Chung-kuk and Senior Vice Admiral Kim Il-chol of the Korean People's Army and Soviet Ambassador to Korea Nikolay Shubnikov.

During its stay in Korea the delegation visited Mangyongdae and laid wreaths at the revolutionary martyrs cemetery in Mount Taesong and the Liberation Tower.

TEXTILE OUTPUT INCREASED IN 2D 7-YEAR PLAN

SK141534 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Pyongyang May 14 (KCNA) -- The annual textile output reached 800 million metres in Korea during the Second Seven-Year Plan (1978-84).

The plan period witnessed the growth of the output of different kinds of textiles and chemical fibres including vinalon, movilon and staple fibre with the powerful promotion of the replacement of equipment with modernised and high-speed one at the textile and knitwear mills throughout the country and readjustment and reinforcement of the production processes of fibre mills.

The textile output went up 45 percent and chemical fibre output 80 percent in this period.

Per capita textile output before liberation (August 1945) was no more than 14 centimetres.

After liberation the textile industry has developed into a versatile and independent industry, harmoniously equipped with cotton, chemical fibre, woolen and silk textiles, fully satisfying the growing demand of the working people for fabrics.

The textile industry will produce in the new long-term plan's period (1987-1993) 1,500 million metres annually by energetically accelerating the modernisation of equipment and reinforcing modern one. [as received] When this target is attained, 76 metre will go to each head of the population.

In this period efforts will be concentrated on the construction of the Sunchon vinalon complex, a large chemical industrial centre of Korea, to create new vinalon production capacity of 100,000 tons by 1988.

The production of fabrics such as high-quality suit materials and cloth for shirts will be increased with the development of the processing technology of vinalon, our own fabrics.

The proportion of knitwear will be markedly increased through the expansion of the knitwear production bases and the growth of their production capacity.

BRIEFS

DELEGATIONS ARRIVE, DEPART -- Pyongyang May 14 (KCNA) -- A delegation of the DPRK Radio and TV Broadcasting Committee headed by its Chairman Chu Hyon-ok left here for Cuba on May 13 and a delegation of the Institute of Educational Science headed by its director Sin Kil-su for the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic. On the same day, Vishwanath, Director of the board of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea and chief editor of the Indian paper INDIAN TIMES, and his party and a delegation of the Oita Prefectural Trade Union Council of Japan headed by Hisashi Hatano, chairman of the council, arrived here. Meanwhile, the Friendship Visiting Group of the Chinese Foreign Ministry and the Delegation of the Japanese Christian Consultative Council left for home, and the secretary general of the International Telecommunications Union and the Journalists Delegation of the World Federation of Democratic Youth left Wednesday. [Text] [Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 14 May 87 SK]

PRESIDENT URGES JAPAN TO CORRECT TRADE GAP

OW151125 Tokyo KYODO in English 1015 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] Seoul, May 15 KYODO -- President Chon Tu-hwan Friday urged Japan to correct the trade imbalance between the two countries, warning that South Korean feelings about Japan are deteriorating, Japanese officials said. The officials said Chon expressed South Korea's trade concern in a meeting with Japan's former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe at the Blue House. Abe, now chairman of the Executive Council of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, flew into Seoul earlier in the day for a four-day private visit.

Chon told Abe Japan and South Korea should forge a new era of bilateral relations but that the trade imbalance stands in the way of better ties.

Abe acknowledged that Japan bears the primary responsibility for correcting the trade gap, but he also told Chon Japan believes structural economic problems lie at the heart of it, sources in the Abe party said. South Korea, which suffers a chronic trade deficit with Japan, saw the red-ink figure climb to a record 5.2 billion dollars last year.

Abe also had separate meetings with South Korean Premier No Sin-Yong and Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su.

Abe is visiting South Korea at the invitation of the Pusan Junior Chamber of Commerce. He will deliver a speech in Pusan to mark the 35th founding anniversary of the chamber. Pusan has sister city ties with Japan's southern port city of Shimonoseki, Abe's native town.

'TEXT' OF UNIFICATION MINISTER STATEMENT ON RDP

SK160155 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 16 May 87 pp 2, 3

["Text" of ROK "Government Position on the Unification Policy of the Main Opposition Reunification Democratic Party" issued by ROK Minister of National Unification Ho Mun-to at a press conference on 15 May in Seoul]

[Text] The Reunification Democratic Party (RDP), which was founded on May 1, 1987, has stated in the unification plank of its platform that "we recognize national unification as the foremost historic task of the nation that transcends political ideologies and systems and adopt this as a goal of national administration."

In that manner, the RDP has turned its back on the Republic of Korea's national ideals of freedom and democracy as well as the government's Formula for National Reconciliation and Democratic Unification based on them.

Furthermore, the RDP plank has given rise to the possibility that both unification under democracy and unification under communism may be regarded as having the same value.

The plank is thus feared to trigger foolhardy arguments that any form of unification is acceptable. Accordingly, the government feels that it must make public its official view of the opposition party's unification policy.

As is widely known, the type of unification that the Republic pursues is a unified democratic republic designed to realize the ideals of "nationalism, democracy, freedom and welfare," as expounded in the Formula for National Reconciliation and Democratic Unification set forth by President Chon Tu-hwan on Jan. 22, 1982.

Accordingly, unification, no matter how important a national goal it may be; methods and democratic procedures and the ideals and socio-political system of a unified homeland must be founded on liberal democracy by all means.

In contrast, the unification plank of the RDP gives unification precedence over unification based on the liberal democratic system which is the Republic's basic national ideal; it is doubtlessly derived from the notion that unification comes first and that the liberal democratic system could well be abandoned for the sake of unification.

Such an assertion by the RDP ignores the fact of the deadly south-north confrontation and the people's healthy concepts of anticommunism and national security.

It is a political gimmick designed to cater to the leftist activists who define the nation's anticommunism which is an integral part of the nation's liberal democracy as a "bourgeois ideology" and demand its repeal. The aim behind this is to incorporate pro-communist elements into the liberal democratic establishment.

And yet, to justify its unification policy, the RDP cites the July 4, 1972 joint communique which said "First of all, the grand national unity as one people must be promoted, transcending differences between south and north Korea in their ideologies, ideals and political system." However, there is a fundamental difference between the two.

First of all, the July 4 communique was an exercise of governing powers. It was rooted in the logic of dialogue and coexistence that sought to restore the severed bonds between the divided halves of the nation and establish peace on the basis of a common recognition of the common ethnicity of the Korean people.

It did not pertain to forms of unification nor any logic of a unification formula, as asserted by the RDP.

The Formula for National Reconciliation and Democratic Unification that the government has proposed is grounded in the logic of dialogue and coexistence that seeks to induce north Korea, which fundamentally repudiates the existence and political system of the Republic of Korea, to come to a genuine negotiating table.

Since the goals and blueprints of a unified nation are focused on creating a unified democratic republic designed to realize the ideals of nationalism, democracy, freedom and welfare, the formula firmly upholds the paramount task of defending a free and democratic orders as prescribed in the preamble to the Constitution.

In short, it must be concluded that the unification plan of the RDP represents a policy to reduce the ideals of freedom and democracy -- which we must defend as absolute values in the face of the threat of the Communist north -- to only a relative importance, thereby undermining the nation's anticommunism and creating a tolerance for Communist ideology.

This is bound, of course, to seriously impede our endeavors to preserve the foundations of the Republic of Korea the basic ideals of which are freedom and democracy and furthermore to contradict our unification ideals of nationalism, democracy, freedom and welfare.

Dubious points of the unification plank of the RDP will be examined more closely below, with the government views on them:

Controversial RDP Clauses on Unification [subhead]

Item 1. We recognize national unification as the foremost historic task of the nation that transcends political ideologies and systems and adopt this as a goal of national administration.

Item 4. Paying attention to the threat of war ever present on the Korean peninsula and also to the horrible destructive power of nuclear weapons, we shall actively strive to deter war.

Item 5. Unification debate will be promoted throughout Korean society. Public opinion on unification will be grasped to forge a national consensus on the issue and a unification movement will be staged by democratic methods.

The platform and planks of a political party are basically its promises to the public. Item 1 promises to the people unification transcending ideologies and political systems.

To realize this, the Republic of Korea's basic ideals of freedom and democracy would have to be pushed from their present absolute place down to a relative position vis-a-vis communism, the opposite of the national ideals. In other words, the Republic's liberal democratic system would have to be given the same value as the north Korean Communist system. This implies that either system would do as long as unification is achieved. In such a case, there would be no justification for actively opposing Vietnam-style unification.

It is easy to see that the RDP plank represents a sophisticated attempt to graft the philosophy and goals of the leftist activists onto the existing free and democratic system.

On the surface of it, Item 1 appears only to emphasize the need for national unification. A closer look, however, discloses that it is a ploy to negate our commitment to and faith in freedom and democracy, thereby creating a foothold and space within our society for communism to maneuver to subvert liberal democracy from within.

An idea resembling the unification policy of the RDP has been advanced by north Korea. This is the proposal that the south and the north join together in a confederation without changing their existing ideologies and systems.

Closer examination of the north Korean proposal, however, reveals that the confederation is conceived as an interim stage leading to the communization of all Korea.

Item 4 in the RDP's unification plank seeks to arouse antinuclear sentiment among the public by particularly exphasizing the horrors of nuclear war.

This parallels the north Korean propaganda line demanding the withdrawal of nuclear weapons as well as U.S. troops from south Korea. Such a North Korean line is being toed by leftist activists in the south.

The RDP calls, in Item 5 above, for the promotion of debate on unification, disregarding the fact that the government has already presented the Formula for National Reconciliation and Democratic Unification which was worked out by pooling public wisdom and digesting full spectrum of public opinion.

The formula takes the fact of the persistent south-north confrontation into account in seeking a breakthrough toward unification.

If it wants to promote public debate on unification, the RDP should present concrete alternatives to the formula, rather than vaguely calling for debate on the unification issue.

Such a nebulous attitude cannot but be construed as a gambit to encourage the propagation of the "minjung" (radical populist) theory of unification advocated by the leftist activists.

In conclusion, it must be noted that the unification plank of the RDP seeks to diminish the importance of the ideals of freedom and democracy, to neutralize anti-communism and to accommodate communist ideology.

The basic concept behind items 1, 4 and 5 mirrors the logic and arguments employed by the leftist activists in their anti-Republic of Korea campaigns.

Accordingly, the RDP plank is likely to greatly impede efforts to preserve and promote the founding ideals of the Republic of Korea. It goes without saying that the unification plank of the RDP challenges and threatens the Republic's unification ideals of nationalism, democracy, freedom and welfare.

RDP Responds

SK160218 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 May 87 p 1

[Text] The Reunification Democratic Party [RDP] asserted yesterday that the ruling camp's demand for the modification of its platform is unacceptable, arguing that its unification policy is identical to the 1972 July 4 South-North Joint Communiqué and the government's unification formula announced in 1982.

RDP spokesman Kim Tae-yong insisted in a statement, "The current regime should first state that the 1972 joint communiqué and the presidential address on Jan. 22, 1982 were wrong before it requests the modification of our platform."

The joint communiqué said, "The grand national unity as one people must be promoted, transcending differences between South and North Korea in their ideologies, ideals and political systems."

Kim maintained that it is absurd to force the opposition party to deny what the President has said to North Korea.

The RDP's statement was issued to refute National Unification Minister Ho Mun-to's announcement of the government's tough stand against the RDP's platform.

In the statement, Kim called upon the government to stop the unconstructive debate over political ideologies and the national unification question.

He denounced the ruling camp for finding fault with his party's platform to suppress the new major opposition party.

"The government's attack and oppression on our party, with false charges and absurd logic are a dirty act bringing the nation into dishonor in international society... and it is not conducive to the interests of the nation and to either of the ruling and opposition parties," Kim noted.

Meanwhile RDP floor leader Kim Hyon-kyu told reporters that the government and the ruling party are pressing our party to modify our party platform unilaterally, excluding dialogue between the rival parties. "We cannot submit to such coercion unconditionally."

No Sin-yong Counter-Response

SK170053 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 May 87 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister No Sin-yong said yesterday that the major opposition Reunification Democratic Party is expected to rewrite the controversial clauses in its platform regarding reunification of the country.

Meeting with reporters at his office, No said that National Unification Board Minister Ho Mun-to had clarified on Friday the government's position relating to the controversy, asking the RDP to repeal the controversial plank.

Asked on the possibility of the government taking legal steps against the RDP, Prime Minister No declined to say how the government would act if the RDP refuses to revise the platform, affirming that the RDP would positively respond to the government's demand.

"When I first read the platform shortly after it was announced (on May 1), I had the impression that a few items in it were prone to become points of controversy. If any part of a political party's platform is found to be a cause of misunderstanding and abuse, it should be reconsidered in the context of the national interest.

"I have heard some RDP people say that the platform should be understood as a whole, and that if viewed in such a manner, the platform is clearly based on free democracy. If so, there is no need for the RDP to be inflexible, it can just repeal the problematic points," he said.

Asked to comment on speculation that a Cabinet reshuffle may follow the shakeup of the ruling Democratic Justice Party's hierarchy, the prime minister said there would be no such shake-up in the near future.

3,000 YONSEI STUDENTS CLASH WITH RIOT POLICE

SK160235 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 May 87 p 3

[Text] About 3,000 Yonsei University students held a rally and clashed with riot police in front of the school gate yesterday afternoon, demanding the release of 36 students who were led away by police Wednesday morning.

During the demonstration, they hurled Molotov cocktails and stones at police who responded with tear gas firing.

In a rally before the clash, the students decided to boycott classes until all of the arrested students are set free and asked the school authorities to take action to gain the release.

Meanwhile, Sodaemun police requested court warrants for the arrest of nine of the 36 students under custody. The remaining 27 students were referred to the guidance committee of the private university.

They were staging a prayer-fast for the fifth consecutive day at the student hall on the university campus at the time of their arrest on Wednesday, in protest of the April 13 government decision to suspend constitutional debates until after the '88 Seoul Olympics.

SEOUL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS STAGE VIOLENT RALLY

SK170127 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 May 87 p 3

[Text] About 1,000 Seoul National University students yesterday staged a violent anti-government rally on the last day of their "May Festival."

After the on-campus rally, they tried to march out of the school and clash with riot police.

They hurled petrol bombs and stones at tear-gas fighting police.

Before attempting to take to the streets, they issued a statement, saying that a joint Seoul struggle committee will be inaugurated at Yonsei University on May 19.

They also urged other students to struggle for democratic constitutional revision in cooperation with "all democratic forces."

About 2,000 students from six other college and universities also staged rallies yesterday.

In Seoul, 1,200 students -- 700 from Hanyang University and 500 from Sunggyungwan University -- participated in rallies.

Students from four provincial schools who were involved in similar rallies were estimated at 800 in number. They were 300 from Kongju National Teachers' College, 200 each from Chungbuk and Kyongbuk National universities and 100 from Hyosung Women's University.

100 KWANGJU STUDENTS ATTACK POLICE SUBSTATION

SK170134 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 May 87 p 3

[Text] Kwangju (YONHAP) -- About 100 students from Chonnam National University raided a police box here Friday and stole a police radio before they fled about 10 minutes later.

The students attacked the Chunghung 2-dong police substation in the capital city of Chollanam-do around 7:05 with petrol bombs and stones, eyewitnesses said.

They smashed eight windowpanes in the police box and 80 windowpanes in the Chunghung 2-dong office on the second floor of the police box building.

Senior patrolman Na Ui-ung suffered head injuries in the surprise attack and was admitted to the Chonnam National University hospital.

According to witnesses, the students scaled the school wall and rushed to the police substation about 200 meters from the state-run university.

The four policemen on duty responded to a barrage of Molotov cocktails and rocks.

After stealing a walkie-talkie, the students fled to the school campus at around 7:15 p.m.

After the incident, at least 500 police troopers searched student offices for about one hour but failed to recover the radio.

Earlier in the day, an estimated 1,500 Chonnam National University students staged an antigovernment rally and clashed with riot police.

ROK CABINET RESHUFFLED, NEW APPOINTMENTS

SK170805 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0729 GMT 18 May 87

[Report by reporter Yi Yong-il from Chongwadae]

[Text] Yi Chong-yul, Chongwadae spokesman, announced a little while ago that this afternoon President Chon Tu-hwan appointed Kim Chu-ho, currently mayor of Pusan, as minister of agriculture and fisheries; and Cho Ki-sang, DJP Lawmaker, as first minister of state for political affairs.

Meanwhile, as a follow-up appointment, the government appointed Kang Tae-hong, deputy director of the Office of Forestry, as mayor of Pusan; (Cho Yong-sik), chairman of the Fair Transactions Committee of the Economic Planning Board, as director of the Maritime and Port Administration; and Mr (Kim Hung-kyu) as deputy secretary general of the Advisory Council on Policy on Peaceful Reunification.

EDITORIALS ON U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

15 May TONG-A ILBO

SK180450 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 15 May 87 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S. Senate Resolution on Korea"]

[Text] Why should we suffer such an insult from a foreign country? The more we ponder, the more we feel shame, frustration, and uneasiness. In connection with Korea's 13 April decision to suspend the constitutional debate, the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee reportedly passed a strong resolution on 12 May urging Korea to reconsider the decision.

For some time now, the government, people, and press of the United States have continued to increase their critical interest in the political situation in Korea by holding hearings, adopting resolutions, and publicizing reports or commentaries. This time, however, by unhesitatingly using the word "lamentation," the U.S. Congress and Government reacted more strongly than at any time since the 13 April step was taken. This makes it easy for us to identify their views on Korea.

The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee resolution, consisting of a preamble and seven articles, analyzes the South Korean political situation as on a headlong collision course and contains the committee's own prescription in which it strongly calls for us to hold dialogue and negotiation. Expressing disappointment, the resolution said: The peaceful and democratic transition of power was a milestone for democratization in South Korea. However, because of the abandonment of the timely agreement to try to achieve a constitutional amendment by consensus, this has been now placed in danger and the hopes of many South Koreans have evaporated, because the transition of the government in 1988 will be nothing but a cosmetic change. The resolution said in a high tone that it laments the South Korean Government's 13 April step. It called for an immediate reconsideration of the South Korean Government's decision that suspended the constitutional debates, and resumption of the South Korean political parties' negotiation over the constitutional amendment.

In particular, this time, instead of their past euphemistic stands, they put forth specific item-by-item directions for the solution of the problem. This is a drastic change of their attitude. In the resolution, they specifically noted that a prerequisite to true democracy in South Korea is an election system under which the South Korean people can be convinced that election results reflect their opinion, and prerequisites to such elections are freedom of expression, freedom of press, respect of appropriate legal procedures, independence of the judicial branch, cessation of torture, release of all political prisoners, reinstatement of complete political and civil rights, and guarantees of the adequate and humane treatment of all political prisoners.

Some U.S. Congressmen have reportedly threatened that apart from the Senate resolution, they would officially put forth a proposal for economic sanctions around this weekend and, if this does not improve the human rights and political situation in South Korea, they would consider second-phase economic sanctions. In addition, 94 congressmen reportedly have signed a letter to be sent to U.S. Secretary of State Shultz.

Now, what should we do? Are we simply going to say that interfering in our internal affairs is an encroachment upon our sovereignty, no matter how intimate a friend the United States may be to us? Or are we going to say that we must accept the friendly advice with open minds? Everybody can make this own judgment.

However, one thing that is clear is that we can no longer tolerate foreigners arguing over our shameful situation. For our own self-respect if for no other reason, the form and paradigm of the South Korean politics must be changed. There is no need to say in what direction they should change. This is because we believe that the leaders of the ruling and opposition parties and the citizens know the answer. The first step toward the solution of the problem will be to set out again on the road of negotiation by opening the blocked channel of dialogue.

16 May SEOUL SINMUN

SK160736 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 16 May 87 p 2

[Editorial: "The U.S. Congressional Attitude of Meddling in Internal Affairs"]

[Text] It is natural for the United States, our closest friend and ally, to be interested in South Korea's anguish. Just as we, watching trade strife between the United States and Japan, have cherished feelings of identity with the good-hearted Americans, the United States must have hoped that politics and the economy will smoothly develop in South Korea and the Seoul Olympics will be held successfully.

South Korea and the United States may have different views of the same thing due to difference in their national interests. When the incident of a North Korean commando unit's attempt to launch a surprise attack on Chongwadae and the incident of North Korea's abduction of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo on the open seas occurred almost simultaneously in 1968, the two countries assumed different stands toward the incidents. While we called for taking a strong chastising action against North Korea's barbarous act, the United States hurriedly conducting negotiations to have the crew members of the Pueblo quickly repatriated.

We can fully understand that the United States will have its own interest in issues that are related to South Korea, and that it will have different views on a specific issue. However, if it tries to unilaterally force its own will on us, this will certainly be one stemming from the idea of great power and the act of meddling in internal affairs. When we see some of the views expressed with regard to the South Korean question in the hearings of the Solarz committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and the content of a resolution adopted at the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, we see that the acts of those concerned have created the impression of meddling in internal affairs, transcending an interest in and view of the South Korean question.

Some U.S. congressmen who are critical of the South Korean Government oppose the 13 April decision that calls for postponing discussions on the matter of constitutional revision until after the Seoul Olympics, or call for changing the present election system. This attitude is caused by their ignorance of the development of politics in South Korea or by their insolent attitude toward South Korea. Discussions on the matter of constitutional revision for more than 1 year, until the announcement of the 13 April decision, made no progress due to the intransigent attitude of the opposition bloc. The issue rather caused great social chaos. Overlooking such social chaos and national division some 10 months prior to the peaceful transfer of the government -- the greatest task of democracy in this country -- will mar such a great national event and affect the Seoul Olympics. U.S. congressmen, who view the South Korean political situation from a distance, cannot correctly grasp the South Korean situation.

U.S. congressmen have called for withdrawing the 13 April step, which was taken in accordance with the decision of the president of this country. This is very displeasing because it creates an impression that the United States, sitting on an elevated place, has made a final judgment. While discussing the South Korean question and while adopting a resolution on this question, some Americans must have been aware of the interest of some Koreans. They are senseless politicians who called for stopping aid to South Korea in the past and for not supporting the South Korean Government. If, instead of rendering government-level cooperation between South Korea and the United States, the U.S. Congress commits the act of supporting relations between toadyist South Korean opposition politicians and their friends in the United States, this will be by no means beneficial for the wholesome development of relations between the two countries.

American politicians should correctly realize what is the greatest task of democracy in South Korea and should show higher-level interest to help the Koreans carry out the task of democracy through their anguish and efforts without outside pressure.

SRV ENVOY BLAMES 'BOAT PEOPLE' PROBLEM ON U.S.

BK140229 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 May 87 pp 1, 3

[Text] Conflicts between Thailand and Vietnam are temporary and can be solved through negotiations, Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Le Mai said yesterday.

Addressing the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand, Mr Le Mai said Thai-Vietnamese relations are important to the peoples of both countries and to peace and stability in Southeast Asia. He described his country's conflict with Thailand as minor and posing "no fundamental obstruction to our national interests." However, the ambassador did not explain his government's motives for its incursions into Thai territory and its bombardment of the border area, nor did he spell out how Vietnam would end its aggressive military policy.

Latest reports by Thai authorities say teachers and schoolchildren are very upset by the fighting and worry that it could interrupt classes when they resume next week. Mr Le Mai blamed the "boat people" problem on the United States' refusal to absorb more than 60,000 people who had applied for and been granted "exit visas" by his government. The United States created the "backlog" of Vietnamese who wanted to leave their country, he said, and Vietnam would be negotiating with the U.S. to enable these people to go to the U.S. "The U.S. had created burdens against the humanitarian aspects of orderly departure," Mr Le Mai said. He said boat people who had government exit visas had permission to leave the country, but later he contradicted himself by saying that many had fled in ramshackle boats without permission because "they couldn't wait for an orderly exit."

He said non-Vietnamese who had recently been released from "reeducation camps" in Vietnam were guilty of espionage activities, and dismissed as inaccurate reports that they had not been given proper trials.

He reaffirmed that Vietnam would withdraw its troops from Kampuchea by 1990 provided that Pol Pot and his followers are prevented from regaining power in Kampuchea. It is not known whether Vietnam's promised troop withdrawal would be postponed as long as the Pol Pot problem was not solved.

Asked about the withdrawal of its forces from Laos, Mr Mai said that it was up to his government and the Lao people to decide.

SITTHI'S MOSCOW VISIT, CAMBODIA DISCUSSED

BK140225 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 May 87 p 6

[Editorial: "Sitthi's Trip Shows Soviet Khmer Policy Could Change"]

[Text] In the current atmosphere that is prevailing in the Soviet Union, full weight must be attached to what Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said about his talks with Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila. Clearly there was no meeting of minds in the discussions held Tuesday about Kampuchea, because Shevardnadze said that the Soviet Union views the Kampuchean situation differently. However, he did say that Moscow does not see the situation as deadlocked, and expressed possibilities of a political solution.

Nobody expected miracles to happen as a result of Sitthi's visit to Moscow, but Shevardnadze's words clearly indicated that the Soviet Union has changed its stand -- be it ever so slightly -- on the Kampuchean question since he was here two months ago. During his brief stopover in Bangkok, Shevardnadze vaguely referred to an 'Afghan-type' solution to the Kampuchean conflict but changed his mind in Jakarta where he said that the situations in Afghanistan and Kampuchea were different.

What made the Kremlin line of thinking change? We can only guess and say that, between the statements made by Shevardnadze two months apart, the Soviet Union discussed the Kampuchean question with China for the first time. Naturally few details of what was discussed are available but China did put Kampuchea as the first of the "three obstacles" to be overcome before normalization of relations.

Sitthi's talks with Shevardnadze obviously did not bridge any differences in their stands regarding Kampuchea but it brought out the fact that there is some serious rethinking going on in the Kremlin about a new Kampuchean policy. Vietnam's new Communist Party chief, Nguyen Van Linh, goes to Moscow at the end of this month and although little will be reported about the talks he holds with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the visit may help the Soviet Union solidify its Kampuchean policy which naturally will be viewed from her ambitious hopes of penetrating the Asia-Pacific region.

After the Vietnamese Party Congress last December, Linh brought in a lineup of Politburo and Cabinet members who are strong on economic reforms. It has been said time and again that Vietnam had wasted Soviet economic aid for many years, but Hanoi never admitted that this was due to the war she was waging in Kampuchea. More Soviet aid is needed now and Linh will be most amenable to suggestions made by Gorbachev.

As Sitthi left Moscow yesterday, Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja arrived in Washington with Kampuchea on the top of the agenda for discussions with Secretary of State George Shultz. Although the United States sees eye to eye with ASEAN where the Kampuchean issue is concerned, it is not one of the key issues between Moscow and Washington as they are right now engaged in complicated manoeuvrings over nuclear missiles in Europe. But still Washington is an excellent platform for Mokhtar to air ASEAN views on Kampuchea.

Perhaps what is even more important is Mokhtar's visit to Bangkok on his return journey when he will be able to coordinate his discussions with Shultz with Sitthi's discussions with Shevardnadze. The Sitthi-Mokhtar meeting will give the Indonesian foreign minister, ASEAN's interlocutor with Vietnam, several trump cards when he goes next month to Hanoi where he will hold talks with Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and others. Meanwhile, Linh would have returned from Moscow with his own appraisal of Soviet policy.

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES SOVIET AID TO INDOCHINA

BK150219 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 May 87 pp 1, 2

[Text] The Soviet Union provided the three Indochinese countries with U.S.\$1,750 million in military assistance last year and may be attempting to store missiles at the former U.S. naval base at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam, a senior security official said.

Suwit Suthanakun, the secretary general of the National Security Council (NSC), told JIJI PRESS, a Japanese news agency, in an interview yesterday that Hanoi received U.S.\$1,500 million of the assistance.

Kampuchea received US\$200 million and Laos US\$50 million. The military assistance represented a slight decrease from US\$2,050 million in 1985. (See accompanying table)

Suwit said the Soviet Union is using the Port of Kompong Som in Vietnamese-occupied Kampuchea to unload military supplies to the Heng Samrin regime. The supplies include trucks, T-54 tanks, RPG-7, 75mm and 82mm recoilless guns as well as 105mm artillery pieces, he said. "In 1985, about 50 Soviet cargo vessels anchored at the Port of Kompong Som while in 1986 (January-September) around 26 Soviet cargo vessels made port calls," he said. He said currently there are a number of Soviet technicians working at the port though there are no indications that they are trying to improve the facilities there.

On the Soviet naval build-up at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam, Suwit said seven to eight Soviet warships are usually present at the former American naval base. He said 25-30 Soviet vessels move in and out of the military base every month. The vessels include submarines while the aircraft carrier "Minsk" also makes port calls from time to time.

Suwit said while seven floating piers have already been constructed at the naval base, the Soviet Union has also set up sophisticated communications facilities to support the operations of 16 TU-16, three Bear-D (TU-95), three Bear-F (TU-124) and 14 MiG-23 aircraft.

"And since 1980, the Soviet Union has given military assistance to Vietnam totalling over US\$1,000 million a year," he said.

Soviet military assistance to the three Indochinese countries between 1982-1986:

(MILLION US\$)

Vietnam	1,400	1,450	1,400	1,650	1,500
Laos	100	150	100	50	50
Kampuchea	50	150	200	350	200
Total	1,550	1,750	1,700	2,050	1,750

Source: National Security Council

SRV ENVOY COMMENTS ON CAMBODIA SITUATION

BK140235 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 May 87 p 2

[Text] Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Le Mai yesterday dismissed as "propaganda" the findings of Thai researchers on Vietnamese army defectors published on Tuesday. Le Mai told THE NATION that the methodology used by the Thai research team was "funny" and "it is just a bit of cheap propaganda."

The team headed by Dr Khian Thirawit, director of the Institute of Asian Studies at Chulalongkon University, concluded that the so-called Vietnamese "troop withdrawals" were merely "troop rotations" designed to fool the world community. The findings were based on interviews with 75 Vietnamese army defectors detained by the Thai army during May-June, 1986.

The ambassador also labelled the upcoming International Conference on Kampuchea, which is scheduled to be held here July 25-26, as "ill-intentioned" to prop up the Kampuchean "reactionaries" (Kampuchean resistance forces).

Asked whether Vietnam is ready to talk to Khmer Rouge without Pol Pot, Le Mai said Vietnam's position is clear. "We let the Kampucheans decide their own affairs."

The ambassador declined comment about the report of a temporary resignation of Prince Norodom Sihanouk but said it is not the first time that one heard of Sihanouk's resignation. "I think we should wait and see whether or not there is any difference before making any comment," Le Mai said.

In his speech at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand last night, Le Mai said that Vietnam will introduce measures to attract foreign investment as part of the decision to broaden economic relations with other countries.

Vietnam will continue to improve its relations with neighbouring countries and the world to create an environment of peace and security, which are indispensable conditions for economic development, he said.

REFUGEE ISSUE TO BE RAISED AT IPU MEETING

BK130309 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 May 87 p 5

[Text] The problem of Indochinese refugees and displaced persons will be raised by Thailand in an upcoming International Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference in Bangkok in October.

MP Thawin Phaison (Democrat, Nakhon Si Thammarat) said yesterday the premier and the president of the National Assembly have pledged their cooperation in hosting the conference which is expected to attract over 1,000 legislators from 107 countries which are members of the conference.

MP Thawin represented the Thai National Assembly to a similar conference in Managua, Nicaragua, during April 27-May 2. The conference voted for Thailand to host the next conference in Bangkok during October 12-17.

He said Thailand will explain the problem of Indochinese refugees and displaced persons along the Thai-Kampuchean border to participants at the conference in order to draw world attention to this chronic problem.

He estimated that Thailand will have to spend about five million baht on the conference. But he noted that the foreign participants and their spouses will probably spend much more during their stay here. "This will be an excellent opportunity for Thailand to publicize the refugee problem and promote tourism at the same time," MP Thawin pointed out.

The last time Thailand hosted such a conference was in 1957.

Thailand will nominate MP Suwit Kunkitti (Social Action, Khon Kaen) to be a new member of the executive committee of the conference.

MP Thawin reported that three major international issues dominated the discussion in the conference in Managua: the crises in the Middle East (the Iraq-Iran war, the unrest in Lebanon, and the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians); the crises in Central America; and the plight of developing countries in the wake of the introduction of farm subsidies in several countries.

The conference agreed to play a more active role in calling for a peaceful solution to all conflicts in the Middle East, and to solve the Israeli-Palestinian problem by non-violent means along the line of the UN resolutions.

The conference also urged Western countries to step their farm subsidies and pay "fair prices" for commodities imported from developing countries, according to MP Thawin.

PAKISTANI PRESIDENT ZIA TO VISIT IN OCTOBER

BK150225 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 May 87 p 2

[Text] Pakistan's President Ziaul Haq is scheduled to make a 4-day visit to Thailand in October to strengthen bilateral relations, an informed source said.

He is expected to visit Thailand from October 16-20. The trip was postponed from last year.

Pakistan supports Thailand's and ASEAN's efforts to find a political solution to the Kampuchean problem.

In 1984, Thai exports to Pakistan amounted to 517 million baht while imports totalled 235 million baht. Major export items to Pakistan include dairy products, food, coffee, tea, spice. Thailand imported raw cotton, precious stones, medical instrument and pharmaceutical products from Pakistan.

Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon visited Pakistan in 1984.

CHAWALIT SAYS CASUALTIES HIGHER AT CHONG BOK

BK170130 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 May 87 p 1

[Text] Nakhon Ratchasima -- Army casualties in the campaign against Vietnamese intruders at Chong Bok in the past two months were 40 per cent higher than usual, Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday.

Without giving exact figures of the dead and wounded, Gen Chawalit said the Vietnamese had sustained a much higher casualty rate, with more than 100 killed and many more wounded.

He said Thai casualties were high because of "immense" Vietnamese firepower from Kampuchea and because the infantry was exposed during assaults on the entrenched intruders.

Vietnamese soldiers, he said, had slipped into Chong Bok for some time and had built up bunkers strong enough to withstand Thai attacks.

However, he said the Army had been able to repulse most of the intruders from the lowlands and the foothills and had gained control of most of the areas except a few hilltops near the Thai-Kampuchean border.

All in all, the Second Army had accomplished the first stage of its plan to dislodge the Vietnamese, said Gen Chawalit.

The next stage would see the Second Army modifying its tactics and capitalising on the Vietnamese forces' weak points.

Gen Chawalit said operations had been hampered by the presence of communities near the battle zone. Thai gunners, he said, were bound by moral obligation not to fire on targets close to civilian communities.

He said he did not understand why Prachakon Thai leader Samak Sunthorawet had submitted to Parliament a motion querying the Government over the Chong Bok campaign.

The army chief said it was strange that no one bothered to protest against the Vietnamese intrusion. He chided some elements who created misunderstanding and confusion by inflating the figure of Thai casualties.

"Casualty figures cannot be covered up," he said. If the figures are fabricated, how can the insurance company pay compensation?"

Gen Chawalit and about 20 officers yesterday inspected the battle zone and spoke to troops. Later, he went to Nakhon Ratchasima to present insurance money to the families of 45 soldiers and rangers killed. The dead include three officers, the most senior a lieutenant-colonel, 10 non-commissioned officers, 23 privates and nine rangers. Compensation per officer was 100,000 baht; NCOs 80,000 and the rest 50,000.

The highest casualties in a single day were on April 14 when 14 troops died in a Vietnamese artillery bombardment on Hill 500.

PREM DEFENDS GOVERNMENT, CITES KING'S REMARKS

BK140235 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 May 87 p 1

[Text] Gen Prem Tinsulanon yesterday defended his status as a non-elected prime minister. He dismissed criticism that since he did not come from election, he is not in a position to understand the sufferings of the people.

"This observation is not a theory. Therefore, it may or may not be true because to learn about the plight of the people one has to go out and meet with them," he said in an address to a seminar of presidents of provincial assemblies at the Local Administration College.

The prime minister said since he came from a poor family in the upcountry, "I am confident that I have considerable knowledge about the plight of the people."

Prem, a native of Songkhla, said as an army officer he spent most of his time serving in the rural areas. "Therefore, I understand the problems of the people very well," said Prem, a former commander of the Second Army Region.

It was Prem's first response to mounting criticisms by opposition politicians who often pointed out the fact that he is not an MP.

The prime minister also stressed that it is his government's policy to fight poverty. Prem also said in his address that it is important to "play by the rules" if democracy is to progress. He warned against the use of unreasonable and violent rhetoric which he said would produce only negative results. "I myself am against the use of violence. I don't see how violence can benefit the country," he said.

Prem was understood to be referring to heated criticism of his government by the opposition parties.

Urging the presidents of the provincial assemblies to uphold the interests of the people, Gen Prem said their performance can only be judged by history.

Citing a statement by HM [His Majesty] the King, Prem said there is a need to remove all the corrupt people from the government and to bring in more good people.

On the government's success in improving this country's economy and developing the rural areas, the people in general are now enjoying a better living standard as far as public services are concerned, he said. He said there are 539 district hospitals throughout the country or 76 per cent of all the districts. Electricity is available to 80 per cent of the rural areas while per capita income in all the regions has also gone up substantially.

20,000 ATTEND OPPOSITION RALLY CRITICIZING PREM

BK160223 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 May 87 pp 1, 3

[Text] More than 20,000 people converged on Sanam Luang yesterday evening to hear opposition leaders blast Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon and demand his resignation.

The rally was the first by the Opposition to woo public support for former Prachakorn Thai MP Bunthiam Khemaphirat in the June 7 by-election in Bangkok's Constituency 3.

The by-election has been billed by opposition parties as a contest between the Opposition and the Government as well as a barometer of the popularity of Prime Minister Prem.

Progressive Party leader Uthai Phimchaichon urged voters in the constituency, which covers Phaya Thai District and part of Dusit District, to go to the polls. A victory for Dr Bunthiam over his Democrat rival, Aphichat Damdi, would prove that public attitudes have turned against Gen Prem and his government.

While praising the Prime Minister for his honesty and clean record, Mr Uthai said he was a great survivor "who will do anything to remain in power without bothering to take any action against those around him who are involved in corruption."

He said Gen Prem was a power-seeker in the mould of the late Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat, but the difference between them was that Sarit got rich but barred everyone else from corruption.

"Therefore, when Sarit died, the Government could recover the assets he had illegally amassed while in power," he said.

Mr Uthai criticised Gen Prem for often speaking out in sympathy for the poor, saying poverty persisted because of the Government's inefficiency and mismanagement.

Responding to Gen Prem's call for the opposition parties to play by the rules, Mr Uthai said the rules were tailor-made for the Prime Minister. "The rules make him the only person who is always right."

Mr Uthai told the audience the Democrats decided to skip Sanam Luang as a venue for their campaign rallies because they were afraid to face the people after having broken their promise to promote democracy and support an elected prime minister.

Muan Chon leader Chaloe Yubamrung drew the most enthusiastic applause and cheers from the crowd last night.

Challenging the Prime Minister to dissolve Parliament, Pol Capt Chaloe said the opposition parties would unite under the banner of the "Benchaphon" party which will support Samak Sunthorawet as the next premier.

Taking the podium, Mr Samak blamed the Government's inefficiency on the Prime Minister for allowing the coalition parties to nominate their men to become ministers regardless of their qualifications.

He accused the Prime Minister of lacking the courage to face the truth by skipping parliamentary sessions whenever an important issue came up. He also attacked the Premier for appointing permanent officials as ministers who, he noted, have a bad attitude towards politicians.

The Prachakon Thai leader said that he would seek permission to appear on Television Channel 3 to campaign for his candidate during the last five days before the by-election.

HOUSE PANEL, MP'S AGAINST COPYRIGHT ACT AMENDMENT

BK150139 Bangkok THE BANGKOK POST in English 15 May 87 p 1

[Text] The House Foreign Affairs Committee and MPs of the Government and opposition camps yesterday came out against the copyright act amendment approved by the Cabinet on Tuesday.

The panel said once the Copyright Act 1978 was amended, the law would protect the copyrights of the United States and other countries which are protected under U.S. law. As a result, businesses concerned with books, films, music and art which originated in the U.S. will be seriously affected. Computer software may be included. Similarly, the exchange, transfer and propagation of the materials for the promotion of science, technology and knowledge would be affected, said the panel.

The amendment means Thailand would have to rely on U.S. intellectual property and technology indefinitely -- or pay huge sums to buy it.

Trading the amendment for continued Generalised System of Preferences privileges would put Thailand at a disadvantage. The law would be permanent while the privileges could be lifted at any time. The panel said Thailand's concession to the U.S. did not mean the U.S. would stop using GSP privileges to bargain for other issues such as patent rights on medicine, seedlings and agricultural machinery.

Thailand had no clear cut commitment to apply the 1968 Thai-U.S. treaty on economic relations to copyrights. If the treaty was to be applied, the Copyright Act should be amended only as specified; to secure copyright protection. The U.S. must do the same in Thailand -- create intellectual property. This means only Article 6 of the Copyright Act needed to be amended.

The panel also said the Berne Convention is an international copyright agreement and the U.S. should sign it if it wanted the protection accorded other members. But if the U.S. chose not to sign, no matter for what reason, it was not Thailand's duty to amend its laws to help the U.S. solve its immediate problems, the panel said.

Meanwhile, Democrat MPs met at Parliament yesterday to consider a stand on the issue. Chachoengsao MP Chaturon Chaisaeng submitted a motion calling for the party to carefully consider the matter. The motion said the U.S. moves on the matter were doubtful and may be seen as a violation of Thai sovereignty. The party was unable to reach a decision.

Democrat spokesman Suphattra Matsadit, meanwhile, asked the parliamentary coordinating committee, which is considering the amendment, whether it is possible not to amend the law at all. If there must be an amendment, the committee was asked to prevent any damage which may be inflicted on the country, she said. "The amendment bill should be delayed until the country is in the position to compete with other countries in the field of technology," Ms Suphattra said.

Thailand needed more time to reach that stage because even the U.S. took as long as 100 years to adopt a copyright system, she said.

BRIEFS

RICE SALE TO IRAN -- The Government Trading Corp of Iran has agreed to buy 100,000 tons of 100 percent grade 2 rice from Capital Rice Co for delivery starting next month, traders said yesterday. The Iranian government received a favourable price of US\$200 per ton FOB [free on board] for this type of rice whose average price currently is \$208-210 per ton. The delivery is in Iranian terms. [Excerpt] [Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 May 87 p 19 BK]

DO MUOI MEETS WITH LIGACHEV IN MOSCOW 15 MAY

OW161729 Hanoi VNA in English 1501 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 16 -- Do Muoi, Political Bureau member and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, was received in Moscow yesterday by Yegor Ligachev, Political Bureau member and secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee.

The reception, which took place in a warm atmosphere, was also attended by Nguyen Manh Cam, member of the CPV Central Committee, and Vietnamese ambassador to the Soviet Union.

GENERAL SECRETARY NGUYEN VAN LINH VISITS USSR

Speaks at Airport

BK170740 Hong Kong AFP in English 0727 GMT 17 May 87

[By Gilles Campion]

[Text] Hanoi, May 17 (AFP) -- Vietnamese Communist Party General-Secretary Nguyen Van Linh left for Moscow Sunday on his first foreign visit since he was named party chief in December.

In an unprecedented move, Mr Linh spoke to reporters at the airport and said he would be discussing "strengthening cooperation with the Soviet Union" during his trip, which is expected to focus on Soviet aid to Vietnam.

Mr Linh, 72, is accompanied by Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach for the one-week official visit. He will join Do Muoi, permanent secretary of the party Central Committee, considered to be an expert on economic cooperation with socialist countries, who has been in Moscow for the past few days.

Soviet aid to Vietnam is estimated at two billion U.S. dollars a year, not counting Moscow's significant military assistance. Soviet officials have publicly complained that this aid was being wasted, and Mr Linh himself noted "errors" in its use at a recent Politburo meeting.

In return for the aid, Vietnam allows Moscow to use former U.S. military bases at Da Nang and Cam Ranh Bay.

Soviet sources indicated that Mr Linh would meet Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev several times and visit factories in Moscow. Mr Thach will meet his counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze, who visited Hanoi in March.

Besides aid, Mr Linh and Mr Gorbachev are expected to discuss international issues, including Cambodia and China, observers said.

Moscow has refused to take any part in the Cambodian conflict saying it concerns the interests of third parties.

China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, have urged Moscow to use its aid to Hanoi as a lever to force Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Cambodia.

Moscow has improved relations with Beijing over the past few years and urged China and Vietnam to mend their fences.

Observers said Vietnam may at one time have been alarmed at the pace of improvement in Sino-Soviet relations, but now seems assured that its own ties with Moscow will not suffer as a result.

Noting Mr Gorbachev's "glasnost" policy of openness, Mr Linh told Vietnamese and foreign journalists that "we must follow the Soviet example, where all Politburo discussions are immediately made public."

Premier Pham Van Dong, who accompanied Mr Linh to the airport, pointed to "the duty of propaganda and press officials to keep the people regularly informed about party and government decisions."

The Vietnamese authorities have in the past few months adopted an open information policy of their own and this was apparently the first time foreign reporters were allowed to see a high-level official leave the country and ask him questions, observers said.

Asked whether Vietnamese leaders would meet Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the Cambodian resistance fighting the Hanoi-backed regime in Phnom Penh, Mr Linh said: "That concerns the affairs of Comrade Heng Samrin (general-secretary of the Cambodian Communist Party) and the other Cambodian comrades."

He declined to comment on Prince Sihanouk's decision to step down for a year as president of the UN-recognized Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK).

Hanoi has refused to talk with the CGDK, saying the Cambodian conflict is an internal matter.

Vietnam has repeatedly said it is ready to negotiate with Prince Sihanouk and CGDK Prime Minister Son Sann, but not with the Khmer Rouge, the third and most powerful faction within the resistance.

The Khmer Rouge are held responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people when they ruled Cambodia from 1975 to 1979 under Pol Pot.

Vietnam has an estimated 140,000 troops in Cambodia which it has said it will withdraw by 1990, or earlier if the Khmer Rouge are eliminated.

In Vietnam's first mention of Prince Sihanouk's decision to step down as CGDK president, the Army newspaper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN noted he had threatened to resign on many occasions.

This time it seems to be more serious and this decision "shows that the reactionary Khmers still suffer from arguments and deep division," it said.

"All propaganda put out about the unity of this so-called government of Democratic Kampuchea by the forces supporting them is only intended to mislead world opinion," the newspaper added.

Nguyen Van Linh Departs

BK171228 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, left Hanoi on 17 May for an official friendship visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

He was accompanied by Comrades Do Muoi, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee; Nguyen Co Thach, member of the Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and concurrently minister for foreign affairs; Hong Ha, member of the party Central Committee and chief of its office; Hoang Bich Son, member of the party Central Committee and director of its International Department; Dau Ngoc Xuan, member of the party Central Committee, minister, and first vice chairman of the State Planning Commission; Nguyen Manh Cam, member of the party Central Committee and ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Soviet Union; and Le Xuan Tung, alternate member of the party Central Committee and assistant to the party general secretary.

The comrade general secretary was seen off at the party Central Committee guesthouse by Comrades Truong Chinh, chairman of the Council of State; Pham Van Dong, chairman of the Council of Ministers; Nguyen Huu Tho, vice chairman of the Council of State and chairman of the National Assembly; Comrades Pham Hung, Vo Chi Cong, Vo Van Kiet, Le Duc Anh, Nguyen Duc Tam, Tran Xuan Bach, Doan Khue, Mai Chi Tho, Dao Duy Tung, Tran Kien, Nguyen Quyet, Vu Oanh, Tran Quoc Huong, Pham The Duet, Dinh Nho Liem, and Nguyen Quang Tao; several other comrade members of the party Central Committees, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers; and representatives of various central and Hanoi agencies.

Comrade Myakotnykh, Soviet charge d'affaires in Vietnam, was also on hand.

NHAN DAN on Visit

BK180449 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 17 May 87

[NHAN DAN 18 May editorial: "The Great, Brilliant, and Faithful Friendship"]

[Text] The Vietnamese Communists and people are very delighted to note the important significance of the visit to the USSR by Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV. This is the first official friendly visit to the USSR by the leader of our party who was elected by the party Central Committee after the Sixth CPV Congress, the congress which affirmed that solidarity and comprehensive cooperation with the Soviet Union would always be a cornerstone of our party's and state's foreign policy. The Soviet Union, fatherland of the great Vladimir Ilyich Lenin and native land of the October Revolution, the revolution of which we will commemorate its 70th anniversary this year, has brilliantly manifested the strength and superiority of socialism and socialist internationalism.

Our party, once again, expresses its total support to the internal and foreign policies set forth by the 27th CPSU Congress, as well as the new political platform of the CPSU. We contend that this is an example of creatively applying the Marxist-Leninist doctrine.

Strengthening solidarity and cooperation with the CPSU and the Soviet state is a basic principle of our party and state's foreign policy; it is an unswerving policy. The Soviet-Vietnamese military solidarity has undergone various ordeals in the many decades of revolutionary struggle of our people.

It is a source of great strength and an important factor for the victory of the Vietnamese revolution. Solidarity and cooperation with the Soviet Union have become an aspiration and a wish by many Vietnamese generations. Many revolutionary combatants of the Soviet-Nghe Tinh and the Nam Ky uprisings, and those in many wars of resistance against aggression, [words indistinct], in prisons, and in blocking the development of imperialism have changed the slogan: Long live the Soviet Union.

The official visit to the USSR by our party general secretary has lively manifested the consistent and unswerving nature of our party and state's foreign policy and our effort to strengthen solidarity and comprehensive cooperation with the Soviet Union, a cornerstone of our policies. For the sacred cause of our fatherland, our national destiny, and our people's life, the Vietnamese revolution, at its early stage, has been closely attached to the October Revolution and to Lenin and his fatherland. This revolution has ushered in the new era for mankind, while the Leninist doctrine has strongly attracted the master of the Vietnamese revolution, Comrade Ho Chi Minh, who founded the only and correct way to liberate the Vietnamese nation and people, thereby leading our revolution to various brilliant victories.

The Soviet victory, which smashed fascism in Europe and militarism in Asia, opened up a direct path for the victory of the Vietnamese August Revolution which ushered in a new era for the Vietnamese nation. Thanks to the great support in many fields by the Soviet Union and other revolutionary and progressive forces, our nation has gradually defeated various furious aggression forces, thereby completely liberating and firmly defending their beloved fatherland and protecting and developing achievements of the August Revolution.

The Soviet Union is a bulwark, and the CPSU is the firmest vanguard party of the world revolution. A wide and comprehensive renovation is being carried out in the Soviet land. This is a brilliant cause and a very lively school of socialism. It has showed the strength of various correct guiding thoughts and a renovation of thinking with profound revolutionary significance. Achievements and experience obtained from this renovation will accelerate the cause of building socialism and communism in the Soviet Union and will bring it to new heights, thereby providing more strength to various fraternal countries in firmly advancing along the path of building a happy and plentiful life for their people. This renovation requires immeasurable potential, material, and intelligence of the Soviet people. It has encouraged our renovation which is being carried out in accordance with the Sixth CPV Congress resolution.

Strengthening comprehensive cooperation with the Soviet Union is a decisive factor for victory in building socialism and defending the fatherland of the Vietnamese people. Various high-level meetings between party and state leaders of the SRV and the USSR during the past period have manifested the firm unanimity between the two parties and states, thereby marking consistent developments in the fraternal friendship and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and the Soviet Union. The SRV-USSR treaty of friendship and cooperation has become a vivid reality in all regions of our country and in almost all domains. Hundreds of major Soviet-aided projects and thousands of other multi-sized ones have been and are being constructed in our country. Many completed projects have brought about great results. Various initial socialist material and technical bases in our country have gradually been established.

The main subject of this official visit to the USSR by Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh and of the Vietnamese-Soviet meeting is to expand cooperation between the two parties and nations during a new stage, the stage following the Sixth CPV Congress and the 27th CPSU Congress, and to carry out tasks in accordance with the guiding thoughts of these two congresses.

Renovating and enhancing the quality of economic cooperation, strengthening efforts and coordination between the two sides in the common struggle for world peace, for reducing and eliminating nuclear weapons, and for peace and friendship in the Asian and Pacific region are important contents of cooperation between the two countries. The brilliant nature of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism manifested at these two congresses is an abundant strength of the solidarity and cooperation of the two nations.

The Vietnamese Communists and people are confident of the splendid success of the official visit to the USSR by our Comrade General Secretary. The Vietnamese-Soviet friendship is like a precious stone, the more we polish it the more brilliant and beautiful it becomes. This friendship will always be brilliant and last forever as does the truth of our invincible revolutionary doctrine.

NGUYEN HUU THO ARTICLE ON NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

BK151500 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese Mar 87 pp 4-6

[Article by Nguyen Huu Tho: "The Eighth National Assembly -- Some Problems of Renovation"]

[Text] Once again, voters throughout our country will go to the polls to exercise one of their most important rights as citizens, that is, to elect the National Assembly which is, according to the letter of the Constitution, the highest organ of power of our state. And also, once again, the significance and practical value of the National Assembly are contemplated by the majority of people. This attitude is, as a matter of course, totally legitimate, healthy, and full of a sense of responsibility as it reflects the ever-increasing political enlightenment of people who are never satisfied to use their votes perfunctorily and only for form's sake, and who are never pleased with the most rhetorical praises for the National Assembly. The universal desire of the great majority of the people is to see that the National Assembly, together with other people-elected organs at various levels, operates in a realistic manner in accordance with the Constitution; and only by so doing will its existence become meaningful.

In the next part, I will analyze the causes of a situation that is abnormal under our system; but now, I want to recall a historic order coming from the resolution of the sixth party congress -- "achieve comprehensive renovation" and "consider the people as roots" -- which is symbolic of the sixth party congress, a congress that marked a turning point of our beloved SRV so that by the year 2000 we will achieve vigorous development that is worthy of our heroic tradition of fighting against foreign aggression for national defense and saves us from humiliation toward our socialist friends who are intensively embarking on reforms as well as toward other Southeast Asian nations having a similar socioeconomic starting point to ours.

The Eighth National Assembly must faithfully reflect the viewpoints, lines and policies of the sixth congress; and what is more, the National Assembly must be a vivid representation of the sixth congress' spirit. It must serve as the place to link the party's aspirations with the objective realities and to carry out deeds that match the party's words first of all by affixing a seal on the demand for renovation and for considering the people as roots, and by embarking on an experimentation with democracy which is being closely watched on a nationwide and even broader scale.

As life is constantly developing, the country is subjected to spontaneous changes within itself as well as to the common trends. This is a law, for not a few concepts and measures that were necessary only yesterday become outmoded and even turn into obstacles today.

It was toward the end of its last term of office that the National Assembly displayed the contradictions between the need to operate as an organ of power that truly represents the trends toward renovation of the nation, socialism, and the world, and to be truly the voice of all the voters and the sluggishness wherein the National Assembly is considered as some sort of decorative item. It should be pointed out immediately that no one who is knowledgeable would entertain extremist concepts regarding the issue of democracy. Democracy is the product of a certain society; and the level of realization of democracy by a system is independent neither from its level of economic and cultural development, nor from the domestic and external situation to which that system must adapt itself at each specific point in time. The process of democratization is also deeply related to historical heritage; and it would be an illusion if we choose as our models all too highly industrialized socialist countries that, in some cases, experienced bourgeois democracy for centuries. However, the past shortcomings of the National Assembly did not totally result from the ills of "idealism." We have been seriously affected by these ills in other areas, but as far as democracy is concerned, we have failed to observe the party's maxims and lacked the necessary willpower. Democracy is our strong point; but in seizing complete administrative power, we have eroded this strong point.

First of all, the role of "the highest organ of state power" is violated due to the confusion of the concept of leadership by the party with the National Assembly's functions of making laws and appointing and supervising the executive organ. Party leadership is absolute and comprehensive, but this does not mean that party organs can perform the work of the National Assembly. The activities conducted by the National Assembly in accordance with the platform and resolutions of the party already reflect in the main party leadership. This is a rational division of labor in conditions of a party in power; and the National Assembly, together with other people-elected organs at the various levels, is a link in the chain of dictatorship of the proletariat. Supervision in practice will become confused if the National Assembly fails to discharge its assigned functions which already bear within themselves the party character. The principle of leadership by the party would be unable to develop its effect if the sector over which the party must assume leadership in its particular ways fail to correctly exercise its functions. The National Assembly realizes the principle of leadership by the party through its party faction and considers motivation and persuasion as the main work vehicle to a certain point; but if its nonparty deputies maintain their own views, the National Assembly will call a secret ballot to settle the issue.

Second, the methods of selecting the deputies decide the quality of the National Assembly. The National Assembly is a powerful state organ and not a [Vietnam Fatherland] Front Committee despite the fact that when arranging the composition of the National Assembly deputies, we must ensure that all social strata, all ethnic minority groups, all circles, and people of all ages can have a voice in the National Assembly proportional to the numbers they represent. Thus, National Assembly deputies must be outstanding persons, typifying all groups and views and thus capable of helping the National Assembly consider for approval the various general policies of the government. They must be fully capable of electing (or dismissing) members of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers; exercising close control over these bodies; and criticizing, molding, and even disciplining the whole body or individual members of the executive. Once it has rejected a draft law or resolution proposed by the Council of Ministers or dismissed a member of the Council of Ministers, there is no appeal beyond the National Assembly's functions and authority.

Each locale and each sector is fully authorized to nominate candidates for election to the National Assembly. Nomination must be made following consultation with the VFF Committee. Here, consultations mean discussions, not imposition. Mass organization

executive committees, associations, and voters have the right to nominate candidates in accordance with the basic standards: namely, loyalty to the socialist Vietnamese fatherland, and acceptance of the Communist Party's leadership role.

Within these limits, voters are fully empowered to entrust their aspirations to people they trust. This way, there will be long lists of candidates. There will be no problems to cause concern as the voters themselves will make the selection. It would be natural were a leading party cadre to lose his election campaign for a people's council seat or to the National Assembly. This is feedback which will give the party more data to evaluate its cadres. This is also an additional test of great importance.

Our country has been liberated for 12 years now. The composition of the National Assembly must reflect the profound changes made since liberation. As the entire country is concentrating on economic construction, the National Assembly needs deputies knowledgeable in this field, no matter where they received their training. This is because we accept differing viewpoints and perceptions provided that they are all directed at serving the interests of the country and the people. And, it is the practical results that will serve as the most impartial judge.

What concerns us is that the National Assembly must have the ability to affirm its own power. It must do this basically through its own wisdom and its close ties with the voters.

To talk about learning about democracy may sound odd, but it is true that we are at the apprenticeship stage. Many concepts have been charged and not everything new is immediately welcomed. Working at one's own convenience and for form's sake -- here I am referring to the National Assembly in particular -- will take root and become a habit among a number of people.

Renovation should not be an empty slogan. The Soviet Union is taking great strides and the results are known to all: the economy is fast pulling out of its slump. The people's lives have been drastically improved. Society has been filled with an atmosphere of openmindedness. The Soviet Union's rivals have become increasingly isolated. The Soviet Union is carrying out Lenin's behest. Soviet society is developing within the socialist orbit. All these comprise a fact that eloquently testifies to the superiority of socialism once it regains its essential inherent traits.

Vietnam, following the Sixth CPV Congress, must study those instructions bequeathed by Uncle Ho as well as those questions concerning the renovation of thinking and the idea of "regarding the people as the roots."

The Eighth National Assembly will certainly answer and will have to answer the imperative demands for socialist development in Vietnam in accordance with our own plans and in our own special ways.

From now on, "unanimous approval" will not be an "automatic" process (Footnote:) (A formality). Some things may get unanimous approval while other things may only be passed by a certain number of votes. The point is that "unanimous approval" must exist not only as a stock phrase, but must be achieved by comparing different viewpoints and holding frank discussions. The National Assembly must not only be a forum for deputies to "express their views," but it must be a place where deputies weigh the pros and cons, make calculations, and voice their agreement or disagreement.

Past experience is rather abundant. I think that if this experience is scrupulously studied, it will help create a new vitality in the National Assembly -- an essential vitality in the move to achieve renovation aimed at accelerating the advance of our fatherland.

FIJIFOREIGN JOURNALISTS DETAINED; EXPULSION POSSIBLE

BK160020 Hong Kong AFP in English 0015 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Suva, May 16 (AFP) -- Seven Australian and New Zealand newsmen were detained by soldiers and police here on Friday as speculation grew that all foreign journalists would be expelled from the country.

Australian journalist Hugh Riminton said in a report to his Melbourne radio station that he had been arrested at gunpoint by six soldiers while filing a story for the Macquarie National Network.

"I was detained for about an hour and 45 minutes at gunpoint by members of the Fujian military," he said.

Mr Riminton said that while he was in custody he had been told by a policeman that all foreign journalists would probably be expelled on Saturday morning. He said he had gone to a boarding house to file his story and in a bid to escape the rumoured expulsion of foreign journalists. He was detained while filing his story.

Three New Zealand journalists and three from Sydney were picked up by the military near the FIJI TIMES' newspaper office. Under armed escort, they were taken with Mr Riminton to police headquarters.

On Saturday this South Pacific island state was without newspapers following the closing down of the country's two leading newspapers the FIJI TIMES and the FIJI SUN.

Lieutenant Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, leader of Thursday's military coup, ordered the newspapers to cease publication after both had criticised his action in toppling the newly-elected government of Prime Minister Dr Timoci Bavadra.

Armed soldiers and police later occupied the newspaper offices.

At the same time the military regime clamped severe restrictions on radio news broadcasts.

Members of the Bavadra government were being held under house arrest at the prime minister's official residence in Suva. Close relatives were permitted to visit them.

Correspondent Arrested

BK171234 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1203 GMT 17 May 87

[From the "International Report" program]

[Excerpts] Radio Australia's Pacific correspondent, Trevor Watson, has been arrested and taken away for questioning by armed soldiers in Suva. Watson had earlier been told that he faced arrest if he continued to report stories unfavorable to the military government in Fiji. The details from Australian Broadcasting Corporation reporter Peter Cave.

[Begin Cave recording] At 10:15 p.m. local time, a uniformed Army lieutenant and two soldiers carrying rifles knocked at the door of my hotel room where Trevor Watson and I were working. The officer told us that Trevor would be taken away for questioning. He must not report stories which can harm the country, he said. The soldier refused to tell me where Trevor was being taken. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, rumors are sweeping Suva that the governor general of Fiji, Ratu Sir Penaia Genilau, returned today from his home island and swore in Colonel Rabuka as prime minister adding new credibility to his leadership taken at gunpoint last Thursday.

Radio Fiji has been warned to stand by for an important announcement of national interest later this evening. [passage omitted] [end recording]

PREMIER APPEALS FOR AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND HELP

BK160549 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Fiji's prime minister, Dr Timoci Bavadra, is reported to have appealed for Australia and New Zealand to help restore his government. Our correspondent in Suva, Trevor Watson, said the plea was contained in a letter smuggled to the Australian high commissioner in Suva, Mr John Piper. He said a similar plea had gone to the New Zealand Commission. However, the Australian High Commission in Fiji says it has not received any request for help from the ousted prime minister. And in Canberra, a spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Department said a hurried check revealed no note had been passed on. The spokesman said direct contact had been made with the high commissioner, Mr John Piper.

Trevor Watson said that, in his letter, Dr Bavadra did not specify what assistance Australia could give, but the prime minister said a link should be made with the Fiji Armed Forces chief, Brigadier Nailatikau, who is currently in Australia. Dr Bavadra is being held under house arrest in Suva.

The rebel leader, Lieutenant Colonel Rabuka, has warned Australia not to interfere in Fiji's internal affairs. The military government in Fiji has directed officials to begin redrafting the country's Constitution. A head of Fiji's Information Ministry, Mr Peter Thompson, said the new constitution should be completed soon. As senior Fiji military source told Radio Australia's Melbourne office that it was hoped the amendment would be completed over the weekend.

Immediately after seizing power on Thursday, Col Rabuka foreshadowed changes to land ownership provisions in the Constitution, which he described as a main source of friction between the Fijian and Indian communities. Col Rabuka and the interim Council of Ministers are meeting today to discuss a number of issues. Included among this will be press freedom. Mr Thompson said a directive would be issued later today. He said it was expected the ban on the newspapers and radio in Fiji would be lifted shortly, but added that this would be dealt with in a directive.

Further on Appeal

BK170848 Hong Kong AFP in English 0836 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Canberra, Mau 17 (AFP) -- Fiji's deposed Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra has appealed to Australia and New Zealand for assistance in restoring his democratically-elected government to power, a foreign affairs spokesman said Sunday.

The spokesman said that a hand-written letter from Dr Bavadra requesting Australian intervention following Thursday's military coup d'etat in Fiji had been delivered to Australian High Commissioner John Piper in Fiji.

The spokesman said the letter, relayed to government officials in Canberra late Saturday, referred to a similar plea for help to the New Zealand Government and called for "urgent co-operation."

The foreign affairs spokesman said Australia's high commissioner had been instructed to seek an urgent meeting with Dr Bavadra, presently detained under house arrest in the prime minister's official residence in Suva, and seek further details, if possible, as to the type of assistance he had in mind.

The ousted premier said in his letter: "I write to seek the assistance of your government to re-instate my democratically elected government.

"I believe this would be best achieved by linking up with Brigadier (Ratu Epeli) Nailatikau (the head of the Royal Fijian Armed Forces who was in Australia at the time of Thursday's coup)."

A Defence Ministry spokesman confirmed that Brigadier Nailatikau was in Sydney but refused to reveal his precise whereabouts.

The spokesman said Brigadier Nailatikau was "in constant touch with people in Fiji" and his future movements "were a matter of what happens in Fiji."

Brigadier Nailatikau was visiting Australia as a guest of the federal government last week when his subordinate, Lieutenant Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, abducted Dr Bavadra and members of his government from the Parliament chamber.

The brigadier has not been seen publicly since Thursday, when he told a news conference that he opposed the coup, but did not want Australia to intervene militarily.

The coup leader, Lt Col Rabuka, was reported to have sent a message to Australia claiming that Fiji's governor general had disassociated himself from any move to seek foreign intervention on behalf of the deposed government.

A statement from the ruling Council of Ministers, headed by Lt Col Rabuka, was conveyed to AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS Sunday by Fiji's acting high commissioner in Canberra, Munesh Sahadeo.

The statement, telexed to Canberra from Suva, said that Lt Col Rabuka had spoken by telephone earlier Sunday to the governor general, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau.

"Ratu Ganilau stated that he had contacted no government overseas, and had not asked anybody here or abroad for help," the brief statement read.

"He has indicated that he has no intention of seeking any help from elsewhere."

Lt Col Rabuka's statement followed a report in a British newspaper Sunday that the queen had contacted her representative in Fiji by radio telephone, and told Ratu Ganilau to stand firm against the rebels.

NEW CONSTITUTION TO COVER LAND RIGHTS, PARLIAMENT

BK161130 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1100 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Fiji's military ruler, Lieutenant Colonel Rabuka, says a new constitution is being drafted to ensure that an Indian-dominated government will never again be voted into office in Fiji. At a news conference following a meeting of his interim military government, Colonel Rabuka said protection of the land rights of the indigenous Fijian population and their way of life was paramount. He gave no details of the new constitution which was expected to be ready on Monday, but authoritative sources quoted by AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS [AAP] said the plan involved a new 52-seat Parliament. Forty of the seats would be reserved for Fijians, 10 for the majority ethnic Indian population, and 2 for other races.

Col Rabuka said that declaration of Fiji as a republic could also be a possibility. AAP quoted sources as saying that the coup leader suggested to the governor general, whose position he has suspended along with the Constitution, that he become head of state or president of a republic. However, the governor general, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, who has opposed the coup, declined the offer.

The colonel also has announced that the country's two main newspapers, the FIJI TIMES and the FIJI SUN, which were closed down yesterday after strongly criticizing the coup, would be allowed to reopen their offices on Monday. The papers would reappear on Tuesday, but it is understood that they will be subject to official vetting before being printed. Similar censorship controls have been placed on public and private radio stations.

Col Rabuka also warned foreign journalists that they must follow instructions not to write reports that could incite racial violence in Fiji. He said television videotapes by foreign crews would be reviewed before being allowed to leave the country.

Col Rabuka was responding to complaints that video material destined for Australia and elsewhere had been confiscated by the military at airports.

It has also been announced that Fiji's banks will not open on Monday so as to avoid an expected rush on local funds. Col Rabuka said a meeting of banking representatives and officials working under his regime would meet on Monday to discuss the banking industry. However, local foreign exchange operations would remain open.

Further on Constitution

BK161208 Hong Kong AFP in English 1125 GMT 16 May 87

[By Tim Cribb]

[Text] Suva, May 16 (AFP) -- Fiji Indians will be denied political power under a new constitution being drawn up by the country's military regime, Lieutenant Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka said here Saturday.

The leader of last Thursday's bloodless coup, speaking at a press conference for foreign journalists, also said the Fiji could leave the Commonwealth "if that is the only solution, or way of getting back to democratic rule."

Lt Col Rabuka blamed the policies of the coalition government of Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra for forcing him to topple the month-old administration. He said the Bavadra government had "incited...unrest which could have led to bloodshed," referring to recent demonstrations by Fijians concerned about being ruled by an Indian-majority government for the first time.

Lt Col Rabuka said lawyers were drawing up a new constitution which would "safeguard Fijian land rights and the Fijian traditional way of life."

Asked whether this meant that any constitution drawn up by the new regime would guarantee that Fiji would never again have an Indian-dominated government, he said simply: "Yes."

He said the constitution might be put to a referendum, "but there could also be legal ways of going around (a plebiscite)."

He said he was not discriminating against Indians. "I'm only looking after the Fijians' interests," he said.

Dr Bavadra's "cabinet was dominated by the Indian race and the Fijian fear of their land rights being taken away from them caused the unrest," he said.

He said the former premier was under house arrest because "we would not accept him being on the loose spreading his influence and threatening security."

Mr Bavadra and 27 members of the National Federation-Labor Party coalition have been kept under armed guard at the prime minister's official residence since the coup.

He said a new constitution would be ready Monday to replace the one he annulled on Thursday, and would be presented to the Governor General Ratu Penaia Ganilau when he returned from a weekend trip to his home village.

Lt Col Rabuka said negotiations were continuing with the governor general for acceptance of the constitution and the new military government, and warned that Fiji could leave the Commonwealth if this acceptance was not forthcoming.

Reacting to complaints by foreign journalists of harassment by the military he said: "You have to accept that we are no longer in a free democratic environment at the moment -- we have to get back to it as soon as we can."

Lt Col Rabuka told the news conference that his military regime would not tolerate anti strike action in protest against his rule.

He also said Fiji would not attend the South Pacific Forum meeting in Apia, Western Samoa, later this month.

RABUKA ON FOREIGNERS' SAFETY, NEW GOVERNMENT

BK180634 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] The self-proclaimed military ruler of Fiji, Lieutenant Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, has moved to reaffirm the safety of all foreign nationals living in the country.

In a statement broadcast on Radio Fiji, Col Rabuka said there security was fully assured, and they were free to go about their business without interference. He said there was no reason to fear. Col Rabuka added however that foreign correspondents in Fiji should behave in a responsible manner and not provoke unrest.

In the 4 days since the coup, at least 20 visiting Australian journalists had been briefly detained and their tapes and films confiscated. One of those detained was Radio Australia's correspondent, Trevor Watson, who has agreed voluntarily to leave the country.

Col Rabuka reiterated in his statement that the protection of lives and property of all Fiji citizens was the top priority for the regime.

All banks in Fiji are closed today following a run on the country's currency last Friday, and the finance minister in the rebel administration, Mr Peter Stinson, is meeting the heads of all banks to discuss future trading. It is understood a limit will be imposed on the amount permitted to be withdrawn.

Col Rabuka is also expected to discuss amendments to the Fiji Constitution with legal advisers. The military leader says the new document will go to the rights of indigenous Fijians.

In Wellington, New Zealand's prime minister, Mr Lange, has accused Fiji's former prime minister, Sir Ratu Kamisese Mara, of treachery under that country's Constitution. Mr Lange said Ratu Mara had pledged allegiance to the Queen but had been instrumental in bringing about a rebellion in one of her countries.

Fiji's former prime minister is a member of the Council of Ministers formed after the military coup.

The New Zealand prime minister told a press conference in Wellington that there was plenty of evidence that Ratu Mara had been in contact with the coup leader, Col Rabuka. He said that Fiji's former prime minister had allied with a person who purported to dismiss the governor general to suspend the Constitution and introduce a new constitution which is necessary to provide for a republic.

Mr Lange said the coup leaders should clarify what their objectives were, as claims about Fijian land rights could not be taken seriously. He added that there was no current threat to the 2,000 New Zealanders in Fiji.

RABUKA CONCEDES EXECUTIVE POWER TO GOVERNOR GENERAL

BK180744 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0700 GMT 18 May 87

[Excerpt] In the latest development in Fiji, the governor general, Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, has announced that the leader of the military coup, Lieutenant Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, has agreed to give executive power to the governor general.

REUTER NEWS AGENCY says that in a broadcast to the nation, Sir Penaia said that the decision had been made after his latest talks with Colonel Rabuka. The governor general said he ordered the soldiers to end their military rule and return the nation to parliamentary democracy. He said all troops who are not needed to maintain law and order must return to their barracks.

Sir Penaia said any decrees issued by what he called the Rabuka regime were not valid. He said he remained firm in his decision that the military seizure of power had been unlawful.

[Begin Ganilau recording] [Words indistinct] this Constitution unlawfully suspended or abrogated, the Office of Governor General, as commander in chief, would vanish with the Constitution. The leader of the coup has told me that my removal was never contemplated. For my part, I have told him and his advisers that I reserve my right to advise Her Majesty that I no longer have [words indistinct] to exercise the executive power (?imposed in) me, as I have said.

The regime has now agreed that I have the right to exercise the executive authority and wants me to remain as your governor general and to exercise the power that I hold [words indistinct]. It was impossible for me to recognize the legitimacy of the Council of Ministers which the regime has appointed or to recognize the validity of various decrees which (?it may issue). I have made that very clear to the leader. [Words indistinct] is that the regime [word indistinct] to me in order to forestall a situation of public disorder. I have already, in my capacity as commander in chief of Her Majesty's Forces of Fiji, issued a directive that they return to their barracks. This has produced no result and I do not consider that a further [word indistinct] will be any more effective. As Her Majesty's representatives, I would [words indistinct], but if my executive authority was neutralized in any way, I will react immediately. [end recording]

The governor general said he had been supported by Fiji's head of state, Queen Elizabeth.

New Zealand's prime minister, Mr Lange, in his latest statement, shortly before the Fiji governor general's announcement said the leaders of the coup had apparently been on the point of declaring last night that the governor general was still the legitimate holder of power. Mr Lange said the coup might have been staged in order to obtain fresh elections. He said such a call by the Fiji governor general would be constitutional. Mr Lange said a military dictatorship could not expect any support or aid from New Zealand, and his government believed it was critical that Sir Penaia Ganilau reassert his authority. [passage omitted]

RABUKA SWORN IN AS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CHAIRMAN

BK180800 Hong Kong AFP in English 0757 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Sydney, May 18 (AFP) -- Fiji's military government announced Monday that coup leader Lieutenant Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka had been sworn in as chairman of the Council of Ministers, AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS (AAP) reported from Suva.

The swearing-in by Governor General Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau took place late Sunday, AAP quoted a statement broadcast over Radio Fiji Monday as saying.

The swearing-in ceremony involved two traditional oaths usually taken by heads of governments of Fiji on taking office, the radio reportedly said.

They were the oaths of allegiance and the oath of office.

CHIEF JUSTICE, JUDGES DECLARE COUP ILLEGAL

BK171111 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1100 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] The most senior judges in Fiji have declared that the military government which seized power 4 days [ago] is illegal and invalid. The chief justice, Sir (Timoci Tuivarga), said the judges had met today and sent a message of allegiance to the governor general, who had denounced the coup.

The document was signed by the chief justice and three other senior judges and supported by six others whose names appeared on the message but were unable to attend the meeting. They said the Constitution suspended by the military government remained in force and they also rejected the suspension of the judiciary saying they would resume hearing cases tomorrow.

DETAINED MINISTERS BEGIN HUNGER STRIKE

BK170750 Hong Kong AFP in English 0737 GMT 17 May 87

[By Tim Cribb]

[Text] Suva, May 17 (AFP) -- Members of the deposed Fijian government of Timoci Bavadra, being held under armed guard by the military regime, have begun a hunger strike to protest being segregated into Fijian and Indian racial groups, the wife of one of the parliamentarians said Sunday.

Anuradha Singh, wife of detained Bavadra government backbencher Devendra Singh, was in tears as she told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE of the hunger strike decision.

Soldiers of the military regime of Lieutenant Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka segregated the 28 parliamentarians being held at the prime minister's official residence, Veiuto, early Sunday, she said.

The Fijian and Indian politicians linked arms to prevent the soldiers from separating them, Mrs Singh said.

But the group was finally broken up by the soldiers and some of the Indians had to be forced onto a truck in which they were driven five kilometres to Borron House, a government meeting centre.

The Fijian politicians, including Dr Bavadra, remained under guard at Veiuto, the prime minister's residence, she said.

"They told the soldiers to pass on a message to Rabuka that if they were segregated they would go on a hunger strike," she said.

"They began the hunger strike this morning," she said after meeting with her husband at Borron House.

Her voice faltering with emotion, she said her husband had told her that they were not being mistreated but added that the strain of being locked up had started to show on them.

Mrs Singh said she wanted to see Fiji Governor General Ratu Penaia Ganilau but she did not know how to reach him.

Mrs Singh said she was afraid to say too much because she might not be allowed to see her husband again.

A barbed wire fence was strung up around Borron House, with 50 police and soldiers, some masked, guarding the building.

Lt Col Rabuka, the leader of the coup that overthrew Fiji's Indian-dominated government on Thursday, is a Melanesian. Melanesians are slightly outnumbered by ethnic Indians among Fiji's 700,000 population, but had dominated government since independence from Britain in 1970.

On Saturday, Lt Col Rabuka ruled out any future political power for Indians in Fiji.

Meanwhile, AFP photographer Matthew McKee was detained by soldiers on the edge of the crowd gathered outside the fence and was taken by soldiers to Suva's central police station.

Mr McKee was later released after being questioned about his activities and had his camera and film confiscated by the military.

At least three foreign television crews had had their cameras impounded, Radio Australia and the British Broadcasting Corporation had tapes and notes confiscated in military raids on their hotel rooms and a number of photographers and reporters have been detained and questioned.

There have been no arrests of journalists.

INDIAN OPPOSITION GROWING, MILITARY CONTROL UP

BK160344 Hong Kong AFP in English 0231 GMT 16 May 87

[By Tim Cribb]

[Text] Suva, May 16 (AFP) -- The Fijian military regime continued to strengthen its control of the country Saturday as scattered opposition by the Indian community began to surface against Army strongman Lieutenant-Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka and his newly-created Council of Ministers.

Indian businessmen told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the Indian community had begun a series of peaceful protests against the military regime of Lt Col Rabuka, who swept to power in a lightning coup d'etat Thursday.

The businessmen said that Indians from Lautoka, 200 kilometres (120 miles) to the west of the capital, were coming to Suva by bus to demonstrate outside the home of Prime Minister Dr Timoci Bavadra, who was toppled in the coup.

Dr Bavadra and 28 other members of the National Federation-Labour (NFL) coalition government are under house arrest at the prime minister's official residence which was guarded by a large number of armed troops early Saturday.

The businessmen said that the Indian community in Lautoka, home town of Dr Bavadra, had closed their shops for a day of protest against the regime Saturday. Major Indian traders at Labasa on Fiji's second largest island of Vanua Levu also stopped business.

One distributor, Surendra Patel, said: "We are not taking any cheques and have stopped all wholesaling because of uncertainty about the economy and about the stability of the Fiji dollar overseas." He did not indicate whether political factors were involved in the suspension of sales.

The National Bank of Fiji told AFP that there had been larger than usual withdrawals by Indians from their savings accounts on Friday. This was confirmed by other banks.

It was understood the move was both a form of silent protest, to deprive the military government of bank funds to draw upon, and out of fear that Indian savings might be seized.

The Suva Chamber of Commerce told local radio reporters that foreign companies had begun pulling out of Fiji.

All local news reporting has been censored. Fiji's two main newspapers were ordered closed Friday and news reports by Suva's two radio stations were being vetted by the military council and monitored by Information Ministry officials.

The military-appointed Council of Ministers summoned the editors and publishers of the two newspapers to the Information Ministry offices late Friday.

The FIJI SUN's acting publisher, New Zealander Jim Carney, and editor Nemani Delelaibatiki, a Fijian, along with the FIJI TIMES publisher Rex Gardiner, an Australian, and editor Vijendra Kumar, an Indian, arrived shortly after Lt Col Rabuka had read a statement to foreign newsmen in which he called for diplomatic recognition of his government.

The four men were told their papers had to cease publication. No reason was given for the closure but both papers had run strong editorials Friday condemning the coup.

Radio Fiji has been broadcasting government announcements in its news bulletins since the coup, and the commercial station FM96 has chosen to broadcast world news rather than government-censored local reports.

The only news given out by the military regime has come in the form of official statements issued by the Council of Ministers. Information Ministry permanent head Peter Thompson said it was not possible to comment on any matter unless it was spelled out in an official statement.

Australian reporter Hugh Riminton was arrested at gunpoint while filing a news story to his Melbourne radio station late Friday. Six other Australian and New Zealand newsmen were detained by the Army around the closed FIJI TIMES building in downtown Suva.

They were escorted under guard back to their hotels and had their identification checked.

The Military Council ordered that soldiers were not to be photographed or filmed. Videotapes being sent out of the country with departing tourists were confiscated if found to show soldiers.

Photographers caught taking pictures of the military had their film taken away. Telephone communications were being regularly cut for up to an hour at a time.

The Council of Ministers announced that the courts would continue to operate as normal unless it was decided to appoint a military tribunal to hear cases.

A senior minister in the Alliance Party government, which lost power to Dr Bavadra's NFL coalition in the April election, was due to appear in court Wednesday on charges of sedition.

The NFL government had reportedly been collecting evidence with a view to laying charges of corruption against former Alliance Party ministers.

The Council of Ministers, headed by Lt Col Rabuka as chief minister, is made up entirely of former Alliance ministers, M.P.'s or unelected party members.

Alliance Party leader Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who was prime minister of Fiji since independence in 1970, was appointed to the number two position of foreign minister in the Military Council.

TROOPS CONFRONT PROTESTERS VOICING BAVADRA SUPPORT

BK161122 Hong Kong AFP in English 1110 GMT 16 May 87

[Text] Suva, May 16 (AFP) -- Armed Fijian troops confronted protesters here Saturday as sympathy grew for the government of Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra overthrown in a military coup d'etat Thursday.

About 1,000 mostly Fiji-Indian protesters, singing the national anthem "God Bless Fiji" and displaying placards reading "We Want Democracy" and "Free Our GG (Governor General)," were forced away from the premier's official residence.

The crowd moved back peacefully for 200 metres (yards) as 20 soldiers armed with pistols and automatic rifles, and assisted by trucks, drove them back from the locked gates.

The protesters included relatives of the ousted National Federation-Labour Party coalition government members under guard at the house.

At one stage Dr Bavadra came out on the front lawn behind the locked gate escorted by two masked soldiers.

The crowd chanted "We are with you" and cheered as Dr Bavadra showed them a wide smile and raised his fist in the air.

After being forced away from the gate, the crowd steadied at the junction of the road leading to the prime minister's residence.

A message was relayed to the wives of the detained ministers that they could only visit their husbands if the crowd dispersed, but the wives, led by Virmati Chaudhry, whose husband was in the Bavadra Cabinet, decided to forego seeing their husbands and remained with the crowds.

"We know you care for our husbands just as we do, so we will remain with you," Mrs. Chaudhry said.

"I know you are doing this to win back your rights," she said.

The leader of the military regime, Lieutenant Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, told foreign reporters at a news conference Saturday that was apparently timed to coincide with the Army confrontation with the protesters that the detainees would be moved to another unidentified location later Saturday.

The protesters had planned to repeat their demonstrations Sunday at the house.

Demonstrators Arrested

BK180508 Hong Kong AFP in English 0451 GMT 18 May 87

[By Tim Cribb]

[Excerpt] Suva, May 18 (AFP) -- Police arrested several people, shops were closed and bus services drastically reduced here Monday, eyewitnesses said, as opponents of Fiji's new military regime organised a day of protest.

Opponents of the administration set up by the leader of Thursday's coup, Lieutenant Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, gathered in Sukuna Park in central Suva for a prayer meeting.

The crowd grew to more than 1,200 people, mainly Indians, but also including Melanesians.

As speakers rose to read prayers, they were seen to be heckled by a small group of Melanesians, then taken away by police. Eyewitnesses said at least two and as many as five people were detained.

Indian Chamber of Commerce President Mulchand Patel told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that his association's 75 members, plus a number of other shopowners, had closed their businesses for the day.

"This is a direct political protest against the military regime to tell them we'd like democracy restored," Mr Patel said.

Almost every shop in the Indian commercial district of Cumming Street could be seen locked and boarded up.

Only a handful of shops in different parts of the capital were open for business, eyewitnesses said, and supermarkets were crowded with people stockpiling food.

Only three of at least 10 bus services operating in Suva were running, residents said, with long queues at most main stops.

People lined the road and sat under trees near Borron House -- a government meeting centre where the Indian members of the deposed Cabinet are reportedly being held under military guard -- in an apparent show of silent support for the ousted government of Timoci Bavadra.

Soldiers said they were under orders not to allow foreign reporters near the demonstrators.

A similar silent protest was staged five kilometres (three miles) away at Vieuro, the prime minister's official residence, where the Melanesian MP's are being held.

All 28 MP's of the deposed government were continuing a hunger strike begun Sunday morning in protest at being separated, the wife of a detained parliamentarian told AFP.

In the north of the main island of Viti Levu, shops have been closed since Saturday and bus services have also been drastically reduced, residents said. They said shops and buses were similarly affected in Dr Bavadra's home town of Lautoka, on the western side of the island.

After his May 14 coup toppled Dr Bavadra's National Federation Labor Party government, Lt Col Rabuka suspended the Constitution and appointed a council of ministers to run the country, with himself as chief minister.

He met again Monday with Governor General Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau, reportedly to seek approval for his regime and for a draft constitution which would guarantee a Melanesian government for Fiji, denying political dominance to its majority ethnic Indian population.

The two have met several times since the coup, including a three-hour session late Sunday, when Fiji Radio repeatedly said it would broadcast live a statement from the governor general. By midnight (1200 GMT Sunday) there had been no address and the station closed down.

Observers interpreted this as indicating that the governor general had refused to reconsider his opposition to the military regime.

On Sunday a crowd had marched from Sukuna Park to Ratu Ganilau's residence, where they lined up and stood silently watching the gate guarded by police and soldiers. [passage omitted]

SUGAR WORKERS EXPECTED TO GO ON STRIKE

BK170744 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0700 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Expected strikes by Fiji's cane cutters and sugar workers this week could have serious effects on the country's main export industry. The crushing season is scheduled to start on Tuesday, but most of the sugar workers are Indians. They are expected to refuse to work in protest against the military coup.

AUSTRALIA

HAWKE SAYS FIJIAN SITUATION 'HAS DETERIORATED'

BK170430 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0400 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Australia's prime minister, Mr Hawke, has stated that the situation on Fiji has deteriorated. He said the treatment of Australian journalists in particular had revealed all the most objectionable features of a military dictatorship. Mr Hawke said the Australian Government had instructed its high commissioner in Suva, Mr Piper, to lodge an official protest to the country's new military rulers about the harassment of journalists.

The prime minister also said the high commissioner had been instructed to seek an opportunity for talks with the deposed prime minister, Dr Bavadra. A Foreign Affairs spokesman in Canberra said it was hoped the high commissioner would be allowed to see Dr Bavadra later today. If the meeting is arranged, the high commissioner will express concern over the welfare of the prime minister and his entire cabinet. He will be asked about related issues, such as access to their families.

The high commissioner had also been instructed to seek Dr Bavadra's views [about] what Australia might usefully do in response to his appeal for help from both Australia and New Zealand. A message was smuggled out of the prime minister's official residence where Dr Bavadra and members of his government have been held under military guard since last Thursday's coup.

HAWKE RULES OUT IMMEDIATE SANCTIONS AGAINST FIJI

BK180332 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0230 GMT 18 May 87

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr Hawke, has rejected any immediate imposition of economic sanctions against the military regime in Fiji. Mr Hawke, speaking this morning after the Security Committee of federal cabinet discussed the situation, said he hoped there would be a growing pressure against the regime. The prime minister said he could not see any circumstance in which Australia could become involved in a military way. As he said, if the welfare of Australian citizens in Fiji was threatened by any violence there, the Navy could be used to facilitate their evacuation. Mr Hawke said strong representations have been made over the ill treatment of journalists and the restrictions imposed upon them preventing the discharge of their proper duties. He said he did not believe there was a need for Australian foreign minister, Mr Hayden, to return from Europe and ruled out possible economic sanctions at this stage.

[Begin Hawke recording] It's not an option which is entertained in my mind or by my government at this point, because I would hate to [words indistinct] by the things that we're saying, by the increasing strength with which now others are saying the same thing [words indistinct] who have the capacity for [words indistinct] region of the welfare of that society, we see that the welfare of Fiji in the future demands the restoration of the legitimate government of Dr Bavadra. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Extortion is the latest in a series of restrictive measures being imposed on journalists reporting on Thursday's coup. Reports from Suva say the MELBOURNE HERALD correspondent, (Peter Costa), was detained while covering the protest demonstration outside the government building in Suva today. According to reports, (Costa) may be asked to leave also. Reports have not been confirmed. [passage omitted]

NAVY FLAGSHIP ORDERED TO STAND BY OFF FIJI

BK180552 Hong Kong AFP in English 0544 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Canberra, May 18 (AFP) -- The Australian Government has ordered the Navy's flagship Stalwart to stand by off Fiji in case Australians have to be evacuated, an official spokesman said Monday.

Four Australian naval vessels, the guided missile frigates Adelaide and Sydney and the patrol boats Cessnock and Wollongong are already in harbour in Fiji as part of a goodwill visit which began Thursday, the spokesmen said. All our ships have been instructed to remain in port.

The Stalwart, a 10,000-tonne supply ship, visited Fiji two weeks ago to take the governor general, Sir Panaia Ganilau, on a tour of outlying islands. The Stalwart was due to go to Apia, western Samoa, where it was to provide communications and support facilities for Mr Hawke during the South Pacific forum later this month. It has now been instructed to remain in the Fiji area, the spokesman said. The Adelaide is at Lautoka with the Cessnock and the Wollongong, and the Sydney is in Suva. They have been instructed to remain in harbour, a spokesman said. The Adelaide and Sydney each have a complement of 185 officers and men. The Cessnock and the Wollongong each have 22.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke again Monday ruled out any military intervention to overthrow the military-led regime which took over Thursday. But he said Australian naval forces might be used to facilitate the evacuation of Australian citizens if their welfare were to be endangered by any violence.

Fiji has a permanent population of about 400 Australian citizens but at any time there are from 2,000 to 3,000 Australians visiting the islands as tourists.

The Foreign Affairs Department has advised prospective tourists as well as travel agents that the situation in Fiji is unclear and that while there is uncertainty the situation has been calm and that travel is a matter for individual decision. This advice was currently being reviewed, a spokesman said.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

HELP OFFERED FOR SETTLEMENT OF SITUATION IN FIJI

BK180009 Hong Kong AFP in English 0003 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Port Moresby, May 18 (AFP) -- Papua New Guinea (PNG) has offered to assist in finding a solution to the crisis in Fiji following last week's military coup in the South Pacific island state.

Foreign Minister Ted Diro said late Sunday that other countries had an interest in what happened to democracy, stability and security in the South Pacific and to regional institutions like the University of the South Pacific which is located in Fiji.

"We are willing to contribute to the search for means of bringing about a solution to the current situation which is acceptable to the people of Fiji," Mr Diro said.

A foreign affairs spokesman said PNG believed the South Pacific Forum (SPF) countries could play an important role in negotiating a settlement.

Prime Minister Pias Wingti earlier Sunday condemned the military takeover in Fiji. "Full democratic government must be restored to Fiji as soon as possible," he said in a statement.

RESULTS OF SENATORIAL ELECTIONS AS OF 16 MAY

HK170831 [Editorial Report] Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English on 17 May carries on pages 1 and 6, two lists of senatorial election results for the 1987 Philippine Senatorial election. The first list is a tally by Comelec (Commission on Elections) as of 1600 on 16 May, and the second is a count by Namfrel (National Citizens Movement for Free Elections) as of 1800 on 16 May. The lists are as follows:

Comelec		Namfrel	
(As of 1600, 16 May)		(As of 1800, 16 May)	
1. Estrada	727,324	1. Salonga	7,998,988
2. Tolentino	618,998	2. Aquino	7,686,550
3. Farinas	573,459	3. Mercado	7,450,505
4. Enrile	547,201	4. Angara	7,096,316
5. Salonga	495,189	5. Osmena	7,048,139
6. Puyat	487,476	6. Shahani	6,843,538
7. Magsaysay	473,725	7. Saguisag	6,819,170
8. Ople	468,148	8. Gonzales	6,750,675
9. Kalaw	461,036	9. Lina	6,695,255
10. Mercado	455,277	10. Romulo	6,608,619
11. Shahani	422,424	11. Tanada	6,363,400
12. Aquino	435,367	12. Alvarez	6,352,929
13. Almendras	434,845	13. Guingona	6,310,390
14. Romulo	427,011	14. Laurel	6,278,509
15. Angara	421,063	15. Manglapus	6,255,207
16. Recto	412,658	16. Paterno	6,107,616
17. Adaza	403,113	17. Ziga	5,966,917
18. Manglapus	396,919	18. Estrada	5,911,556
19. Maceda	394,800	19. Maceda	5,669,491
20. Gonzales	391,151	20. Pimentel	5,501,608

21. Laurel	384,766	21. Herrera	5,448,011
22. Osmena	379,744	22. Defensor	5,025,295
23. Alvarez	374,241	23. Sanchez	4,964,343
24. Espina	368,671	24. Tamano	4,909,273
25. Tatad	359,021	25. Rasul	4,870,870
26. Saguisag	354,669	26. Enrile	4,633,733
27. Pimentel	342,894	27. Kalaw	4,105,053
28. Lina	338,495	28. Puyat	4,075,563
29. Tanada	336,428	29. Almendras	3,852,598
30. Guingona	326,762	30. Ople	3,443,630
31. Paterno	326,108	31. Magsaysay	3,285,953
32. Ziga	310,708	32. Tolentino	3,176,199
33. Bautista	300,955	33. Bautista	3,133,413
34. Golez	242,698	34. Golez	2,944,801
35. Paredes	234,635	35. Tatad	2,944,637
36. Perez	233,593	36. Espina	2,913,855
37. Sanchez	229,823	37. Adaza	2,763,393
38. Herrera	218,784	38. Jalosjos	1,940,471
39. Rasul	218,456	39. Recto	1,840,768
40. Tamano	217,715	40. Gamboa	1,671,593
41. Jalosjos	206,522	41. Rodriguez	1,379,096
42. Raquiza	198,281	42. Lagumbay	1,344,699
43. Defensor	185,945	43. Palmares	1,223,400
44. Yniguez	171,989	44. Teves	1,159,317
45. Millora	162,241	45. Alonto	1,142,456
46. Lagumbay	150,178	46. Paredes	1,379,096
47. Rodriguez	148,133	47. Rabat	986,682
48. Britanico	126,840	48. Montemayor	946,609

49. Gamboa	125,339	49. Perez	903,583
50. Burgos	116,589	50. Veloso	891,412
51. Venus	112,356	51. Britanico	880,414
52. Alonto	110,507	52. Sancho	872,265
53. Montemayor	109,002	53. Yniguez	795,255
54. Rabat	105,587	54. Burgos	787,832
55. Teves	104,102	55. Morales	786,928
56. Veloso	102,128	56. Buscayno	751,371
57. Palmares	98,818	57. Millora	727,937
58. Quadra	92,136	58. Abbas	723,658
59. Mathay	86,484	59. Farinas	692,812
60. Manahan	81,839	60. Beltran	652,014

AQUINO CANDIDATES AHEAD 19-5 BY COMELEC COUNT

HK180631 Hong Kong AFP in English 0620 GMT 18 May 87

[Text] Manila, May 18 (AFP) -- President Corazon Aquino's senate candidates maintained a 19-5 lead while opposition candidates slipped down Monday as the official vote canvass went ahead slowly a week after the Philippine Congress election. Joseph Estrada, a popular movie star who ran on the Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD) opposition slate led by Juan Ponce Enrile, remained at number one position in the official tally by the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Mr Enrile, whose call for massive protests against alleged government fraud has been unheeded, fell from number 15 to 18, while other GAD candidates were occupying the 22nd to 24th position in the Comelec count. The top 24 placers will automatically become winners of the senate contest.

Jovito Salonga of the ruling People Power (Laban) coalition, who topped the 1965 and 1971 elections and is widely expected to repeat the feat, was at number two position, with 1.82 million votes to Mr Estrada's 1.88 million votes.

Analysts attributed Mr Estrada's lead to the fact that votes from opposition bailiwicks were counted first by Comelec under an old system that requires manual tabulation to be done here after official returns arrive from across the archipelago. A Comelec-approved advanced private tally showed the administration leading 23-1, with Mr Salonga on top and Mr Estrada at number 18, with more than half of votes nationwide tallied. Independent media tallies had identical trends.

Aquino candidates were also assured of an overwhelming majority of the 200 elective seats in the House of Representatives, all tallies showed.

GAD PRESENTS 'EVIDENCE' OF ELECTION FRAUD

HK170619 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 17 May 87 pp 1, 15

[Text] The opposition Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD) said yesterday it had unearthed evidence of poll fraud which it claimed perverted the conduct of the May 11 elections.

In a press conference, GAD spokesman and senatorial candidate Francisco S. Tatad presented, among other things, a sworn statement that some school teachers in Maguindanao had with them prepared ballots completely filled out with the names of senatorial candidates, including their middle initials, before the precincts opened last Monday, Election Day.

Another GAD candidate, Homobono Adaza, also presented 199 blank official ballots, numbered consecutively and marked for use in Datu Piang Town, allegedly seized from a local leader before Election Day. He said earlier blank ballots were found in Davao City and Baguio City.

The affidavit Tatad presented to newsmen, executed by Pao S. Calzado of Poblacion Maganoy, Maguindanao, said that early in the morning of Election Day, before the 7 a.m. opening of polling precincts, a group of teachers arrived at her sister's house and took a predawn meal called "soal."

Calzado said the teachers had with them prepared ballots and voters affidavits.

She said one prepared ballot was accidentally left behind by the teachers. The ballot was numbered 0002533.

Tatad said other similar documented accounts were being gathered throughout the country to show that even before voting began, official ballots were "already" in the hands of electoral workers to be filled up and "switched" with bona fide ballots.

Meanwhile, the Union for Peace and Progress-Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (UPP-KBL) demanded replacement of all members of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

The UPP-KBL said other opposition groups joined the move to document cases of alleged irregularities throughout the country and started compiling additional proofs.

Former speaker Nicanor Yniguez said the documentation has already been done in several provinces and cities, including Manila.

MAYOR, 5 OTHERS CAUGHT TAMPERING WITH RETURNS

HK151317 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 15 May 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] Cotabato City -- An acting town mayor, an election registrar and four others were caught by a combined team of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) and the Constabulary tampering with election returns inside a hotel room here at 1:30 p.m. yesterday.

Caught in a raid at room 313 of Agong Lodging House on Magallanes St. were Buldon Town officer-in-charge Taungan Masandag, Comelec election registrar Macaanton Maromsalim, Buldon police station commander Lt. Paitod Malambot, the town's treasurer Reynaldo Alex, district school supervisor Misa Gakad Lingkod and Namfrel representative Akmad Panguta.

Comelec special action team head lawyer Felimon Asperin said the raiding team found opened Comelec envelopes containing three bundles of unfilled and unaccomplished statements of votes numbering 13-95, certificates of canvass computation sheets and 12 CE forms No. 12-c and other election materials.

He also said the blank certificate of canvass for Buldon town was also "pre-signed" by the election registrar and the municipal treasurer.

Upon investigation, Maromsalik said his group was about to "transfer" the votes of each of the candidates in the canvass certificate.

He also said they were forced to vacate Buldon and accomplish the forms elsewhere because of uneasy peace and order and that "so many people were interfering with us." He also said no military men were providing security there.

Asked why they were "transferring" the votes in a private hotel instead of the Comelec regional office, the six were unable to answer.

Asperin said he is awaiting response from the candidates whether they continue with the provincial canvassing due to the incident as many of the election returns envelopes from Buldon were already opened.

The six could be held criminally and administratively guilty, Asperin said.

Last Wednesday and Thursday, the canvassing of votes for Maguindanao Province was postponed due to heated altercations and protests between congressional candidates over the results of the election in Barira Town where statement of votes were reported missing.

Barira and Buldon are neighboring towns some 80 kilometers northwest of Cotabato City.

GAD SAYS GOVERNMENT OFFERED WINNING POSITIONS

HK160300 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] The Grand Alliance for Democracy [GAD] alleged yesterday that the government has offered to make Juan Ponce Enrile and four other GAD candidates win the senatorial polls. The offer was made in exchange [words indistinct] to all officers and rallies against the recent elections. The Grand Alliance's statement said Enrile turned down the offer. Aside from Enrile and Joseph Estrada who are found in the winning column, the government reportedly offered to allow Blas Ople, Alejandro Almendras, and Eva Estrada Kalaw to win the senate polls. President Aquino at Malacanang denied the allegation. She said she never sent anybody to the Grand Alliance to make the offer. The Grand Alliance allegation came as the official Commission on Elections tally of returns gave the opposition 13 positions in the 24-man senate slate, with Estrada, Tolentino, and Farinas, and Enrile in the four top position [sentence as heard]. The Comelec [Commission on Elections] count as of last night was only over 400,000 votes.

Over at Namfrel [National Citizens Movement for Free Elections] Laban [Lakas ng Bayan -- People's Power] continued their avalanche win over the opposition maintaining the 23-1 edge over the Grand Alliance for Democracy.

COMELEC TO ANNUL POLLS IF FRAUD CHARGES PROVEN

HK151235 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 15 May 87 pp 1, 10

[By Marlen Ronquillo]

[Text] Commission on Elections [Comelec] chairman Ramon Felipe Jr. yesterday said the Comelec shall annul the May 11 legislative polls and call for a new one should the opposition prove there was cheating on a grand scale.

The Comelec, meanwhile, received petitions seeking a stop to the proclamation of several winning candidates, including Tessie Aquino-Oreta and Francisco Sumulong, both President Aquino's relatives.

Felipe told a news conference it is within the broad powers of the Comelec to annul an election marred by massive fraud and anomalies. He said cheating on a massive scale is tantamount to a failure of election.

"But the political opposition has to show proof and evidence to prove their point. So far we have not received any," said Felipe.

Felipe said the poll body is awaiting a formal complaint from the political opposition so a thorough investigation of their charges can be started.

Felipe said he is unfazed by the protest which the opposition Grand Alliance for Democracy initiated yesterday at EDSA [Epifanio de Los Santos Avenue] where millions of Filipinos massed in February 1986 to oust the Marcos government after a disputed presidential election.

"With all candor and sincerity, I feel there were no irregularities in the May 11 elections," said Felipe.

He said the delays in the submission of election returns from the city and provincial canvassing boards were caused by the late delivery of official election forms to polling precincts.

The delay in the delivery of the election forms was, in turn, caused by the late release of the election budget, Felipe said.

"The money came in late February. We started preparing for the elections only in early March," he said.

Comelec sources said Felipe has been telling close aides that the reluctance of the political opposition to dialog with the poll body on alleged electoral fraud stems from the lack of concrete proof and evidence to back up its charges.

To speed up the tally of officials returns, Felipe said he has directed provincial and city canvassing boards to cut down on bureaucratic delays and send the returns to the national canvassing boards immediately.

Sources in the poll body said Comelec commissioners are likewise willing to resign from their posts should the results of the elections be placed under serious doubt.

Similarly, Lakas ng Bayan senatorial candidates said they will not sit in the Senate if the opposition proves there was rampant cheating.

Vice President Salvador H. Laurel said that there is nothing wrong in the near sweep of Laban candidates of the senatorial elections as long as the results reflect the people's will.

Although he acknowledged the Comelec has been slow in counting the returns, Laurel said the trend in unofficial tallies only proves the people "still have a lot of confidence in the new government."

More losing candidates, however, have asked the poll body to stop the proclamation of winning candidates against Ms. Oreta, Francisco Sumulong, and political warlord Ali Dimaporo.

Similar petitions were filed against candidates Lorna Verano Yap, Reynaldo Javier, and Maria Clara Libregat who ran in the lone congressional districts in Pasay City, Pasig, and Zamboanga City.

Leftist candidate Lean Alejandro charged in his petition that his supporters recovered stubs of fake ballots which have been passed off as official forms in the Malabon-Navotas congressional district. Ms. Oreta, the President's sister-in-law, is leading by a big margin in the race.

In Rizal's first district, opponents of the winning candidate, Sumulong, the President's uncle, claimed the elections there were decided by "tampered and incomplete returns."

Jamil Lucman, the rival of Dimaporo, a close ally of Ferdinand Marcos, said Dimaporo's goons terrorized voters in Lanao del Sur's second district. Lucman said the balloting was marred by massive irregularities.

A petition filed in behalf of Julio Cesar Climaco accused Ms. Lobregat, an associate of former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, of massive vote-buying.

In Pasay, Reynaldo Bagatsing asked the Comelec to nullify the elections because of fraud. Ms Yap, wife of residential security officer Col. Edilberto Yap, is leading in the congressional race.

Comelec Suspends Proclamation

HK160840 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 15 May 87

[Text] The Commission on Elections [Comelec] stopped the proclamation of winning candidates in 12 congressional districts because of alleged election fraud and irregularities. The tabulation of votes in 8 of the 12 districts was also suspended because the reported irregularities there were of serious proportions. In four of these, the count was allowed to proceed provided no proclamation of winners is made. The four districts where the counting was allowed to continue but no proclamation was permitted were the 1st district of Cebu, the lone district of Agusan del Sur, the 5th district of Manila, and the 3rd district of Batangas.

The other eight districts where the canvass of votes was suspended were the 1st district of Batangas, 2nd district of Lanao del Sur, 4th district of Neuva Ecija, the

lone district of Catanduzpes, 2nd district of Negros Occidental, lone district of Las Pinas, Muntinlupa, the lone district of Pasig, 2nd district of Masbate, and 2nd district of Surigao del Norte.

At the same time, Comelec Chairman Ramon Felipe Jr. said the poll body continued to be swamped with protests and petitions against the legislative polls. he said that as of 1700 yesterday afternoon 52 protests and petitions have been received at the Comelec offices in Intramuros, Manila. Most of the protests and petitions were appeals to declare the election invalid and on alleged frauds, poll irregularities and election code violations.

MILITARY REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR AQUINO GOVERNMENT

LD161022 Hong Kong AFP in English 1004 GMT 16 May 87

[Excerpts] Manila, May 16 (AFP) -- The Philippine Armed Forces supports President Corazon Aquino, even though soldiers and their families favored the opposition in Monday's congressional elections, a senior Army general said Saturday. [passage omitted]

At a news conference, Deputy Armed Forces Chief Major General Eduardo Ermita said: "The Armed Forces of the Philippines is fully backing the Cory (Aquino) government." He admitted that the right-wing Grand Alliance for Democracy (GAD) led by former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile had won by margins of 17-7 or 15-9 over Mrs Aquino's senate candidates in precincts near military camps where soldiers had cast their ballots.

The official watchdog Commission on Elections (Comelec) said last week that nearly 2,000 soldiers who voted in advance of Monday's polls had given the GAD a 10-7 margin over Mrs Aquino's People Power (Laban) senate ticket. [passage omitted]

Last February the military had also voted 60-40 against the Aquino-endorsed Constitution. But the Charter was approved by an overwhelming 77 per cent majority in a plebiscite held less than a week after a failed military coup.

Provisional results compiled Saturday by the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) anticipated Laban capturing a 23-1 senate majority, with 656.1 [as received] percent of the country's precincts accounted for. The balloting involved one nation-wide slate, with senate seats going to the 24 candidates who drew the most votes.

Mr Enrile is number 26 in the NAMFREL count, while early returns from mostly opposition bailiwicks had given the GAD a 13-11 edge after 3,930 of the country's 101,000 precincts had been canvassed by Comelec.

GAD senate hopeful Francisco Tatad told a news conference more rallies would be held as a follow-up to large protest outside Armed Forces headquarters here Thursday. "We may not leave the streets until the government has satisfied our demands," he added. [passage omitted]

Mr Tatad also encouraged military men to join the protest rallies, saying "It is not against the Constitution (for soldiers) to join our rally." General Fidel Ramos, the Armed Forces chief, and Defense Minister Rafael Ileta warned Thursday that soldiers who join any kind of political rally would be punished for violating the Constitution. Maj. Gen Ermita stressed that no military men had taken part in the protests. He added that the government remained on full alert for election-related disturbances, while at the same time adopting "maximum tolerance" towards GAD rallies.

Meanwhile GAD senate hopeful Vicente Puyat denied local press reports that GAD had met with Laban and was offered four senate seats, provided that it stopped its protests.

Meanwhile, Mrs Aquino Saturday challenged the opposition to provide proof of alleged poll fraud and said if any town mayor or provincial governor were proven to be party to cheating, "I will be the first to make sure that particular person is penalized."

At a meeting with the Presidential Press Corps, Mrs Aquino downplayed the threat posed by Mr Enrile, who has called for his former commander-in-chief's downfall by means of peaceful protests. "I don't really believe that, you know, we should play so much emphasis on what John Ponce Enrile would try to do or not do. [sentence as received] "I leave it to the results of the election to finally decide whether he will be a senator or not." Mrs Aquino said. Portions of the interview were aired over the local radio station.

NDF SPOKESMAN DENIES ELECTORATE 'REPUDIATION'

OW180057 Tokyo KYODO in English 0041 GMT 18 May 87

[Excerpts] Manila, May 18 KYODO -- Rebel spokesman said Sunday the record 90 percent turnout of voters in May 11 congressional elections giving President Corazon Aquino's ruling coalition a near landslide victory was not a "repudiation" of the 18-year-old insurgency while admitting that Aquino continues to enjoy widespread support. "It would be amiss to interpret the results of elections as repudiation of the left," said Satur Ocampo, spokesman of the underground rebel coalition National Democratic Front. He told reporters in a clandestine news conference outside Manila that "Revolutionaries are firm in pursuing their objectives, continuing the armed struggle and the other attendant aspects of this struggle" in spite of the election results. [passage omitted]

Aquino has earlier said that the congressional elections have put the communist-led insurgents in a defensive posture. Another rebel spokesman, Antonio Zumel, the NDF has never denied that Aquino "continues to enjoy some measure of popularity." "From figures (election results), it would appear that a sizeable number of the people believe in Aquino's sincerity to carry out reforms," he said. He said the NDF has not "reached out to the majority of our people," indicating that the rebel forces would "redouble efforts" including military operations, for "their (people) interest."

Zumel, however, said the failure of the 15-month old Aquino administration to address "fundamental issues" such as land reform will "eventually erode" her popularity. "For as long as the fundamentals of making a revolution is there, we still see a wide possibility and bright perspectives that the revolution would advance," Ocampo said. The Aquino administration and the NDF forged a 60-day truce and held peace talks which failed after the government insisted on limiting the talks within the confines of the overwhelming-ratified 1986 Constitution.

AQUINO TO ISSUE EXECUTIVE ORDER ON LAND REFORM

HK180001 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 17 May 87 pp 1, 13

[By Ding Marcelo]

[Text] President Aquino plans to jump the gun on Congress and issue a number of executive orders embodying vital administration projects instead of letting them pass through the legislative mill where her projects might get bogged down in partisan debate.

Among the executive orders being finalized are those providing for a comprehensive land reform program, free high school education for all Filipino youths, the dismantling of home defense forces and other vigilante groups, and a program to guide the country's economic direction for the next five years.

The plan to issue the executive orders would put Aquino's vital projects in place before Congress convenes. She feels though the legislature will most likely work for the interest and betterment of the people and support her program of government.

"Let us wait till Congress opens," Mrs Aquino said when asked to speculate if congress would cooperate or block her programs.

Mrs Aquino's views on Congress and other matters, including last week's failed EDSA [Epifanio de Los Santos Avenue] revolt the election results and about her now bitterest critic, former defense secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, were discussed in a free-wheeling 2-hour luncheon press conference with Malacanang reporters at the Guesthouse yesterday.

Mrs Aquino said only a few minor flaws remained to be corrected before she issues the executive order on land reform which if successful, will probably be the cornerstone of her presidency.

"Besides the funding," Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo said, "the land reform program will have to deal with such questions as to whether the program would diminish or increase production.

He, however, said that a huge task force that practically involves the entire government bureaucracy is working on the program which is about to be finalized;

Meantime, Mrs Aquino said the convening of Congress will be a welcome relief to the taxing burdens of the presidency.

"Oh, definitely so," she said when asked if she looked forward to the opening of Congress. "That's the reason why I worked so hard to make it happen."

Mrs Aquino said the election has contributed greatly to the stability of the country.

She said that part of the instability in the past was caused by the fact that only she and Vice President Salvador Laurel were elected by the people.

Now that the country is moving to full democracy with still another election coming up, the president said stability has taken hold "and if there's stability, more investors will come in."

She also said that the 90 percent voter turnout is a clear message to both the forces of the left and right that people want democracy and that they want stability.

Mrs Aquino also said she has nothing against people going out to demonstrate against what they perceived to be the commission of frauds in the last election.

"I believe in freedom of expression," the President said. "And I have told the military to exercise maximum tolerance in dealing with demonstrators."

Mrs Aquino laughed off charges that there was wide spread cheating.

"I vowed that this would be the cleanest election ever," she said "and I guess it was."

She said that though she was a victim of cheating herself, "at this time of my life I'd never allow that to happen again. I would be the last person to resort to foul means."

Mrs Aquino also denied that she sent emissaries to the opposition to tell them that she was willing to give them five Senate seats so long as they stop demonstrating.

"I'm in no position to give away Senate seats," she said.

She also lamented that during the campaign she was never criticized but after the elections when administration candidates appeared winning, she was pilloried by the opposition.

The president also revealed she planned to appoint only half of the 50 sectoral representatives to Congress. She said she is still awaiting the nominees and that she intends to name a representative from the military.

As for movie sectors elected to Congress, in reference to Joseph Estrada who at the moment appears to be the only survivor of the Lakas ng Bayan steam roller, the President said she welcomes anyone elected by the people, even if one has no track record for a high office like the Senate because "I myself was elected without any experience. It's only right that we give everyone a chance."

As for Enrile, the President withheld comment saying she was leaving it to the person on what he plans to do in the future.

The president also said she was glad by the victory of Rene Saguisag who won despite lacking the financial resources but performed very well and showed that even a poor person can get elected.

MUSLIM REBELS, BANDITS KIDNAP MORE PEOPLE IN SOUTH

BK171712 Hong Kong AFP in English 1651 GMT 17 May 87

[Text] Cagayan de Oro, Philippines, May 17 (AFP) -- A gang of Moslem rebels-turned-bandits Sunday kidnapped an undetermined number of people in separate incidents in the southern Philippine Province of Lanao del Norte, the regional military commander said here.

It was the fourth round of kidnappings in the same region in less than two weeks.

All are believed to have been carried out by the same group, known as the Tundra gang, said Colonel Raul Aquino.

Col. Aquino also reported the failure of the latest attempt to negotiate the release of a Swiss Red Cross worker kidnapped on May 5 in a neighboring province, saying the kidnappers' leader was a "mental case."

In the latest abductions, a fish truck was stopped and an undetermined number of people were taken in the nearby town of Kolambugan, said Col. Aquino.

Five hours later, in the same town, a rice truck was stopped and three people were kidnapped.

Two other passengers were left behind after being wounded by the kidnappers' gunfire, he said.

On Thursday suspected members of the same group seized a truck with 15 people on board in Bacolod Town.

Three of the hostages were later released.

The Tundra group is also believed responsible for the kidnapping of seven traders in the same province on May 5.

Four were later released but three are still being held hostage.

The three traders and the 12 people from Thursday's kidnapping are being held for a ransom of 20,000 pesos (975 dollars) for each group.

There were no reports of any ransom demand for the two latest groups of hostages.

Meanwhile, in the neighboring Province of Lanao del Sur, government negotiators returned to the city of Marawi Sunday after failing to obtain the release of kidnapped Swiss Red Cross worker, Jacky Sudan, Col. Aquino said.

He said the head of the kidnappers, Macalinog Guro, had proved to be "a mental case" who refused to release Mr. Sudan for any reason at all.

Col. Aquino also said International Red Cross delegates Henri Furnier and Franz Meyer were conferring in Marawi with the regional governor, Tarhata Lucman, who is also Mr. Guro's former employer, while Mrs. Lucman's son, Noordin, was asking Mr. Guro's relatives to persuade him to release Mr. Sudan.

VII. WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT

VIII. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY
REPORT

Contents unchanged

Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY
REPORT; contents include:

International Affairs

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